

JIN
MAGAZINE

今日天津

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TIANJIN TODAY 2013/07



TIANJIN'S HOTELS
CRUCIAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

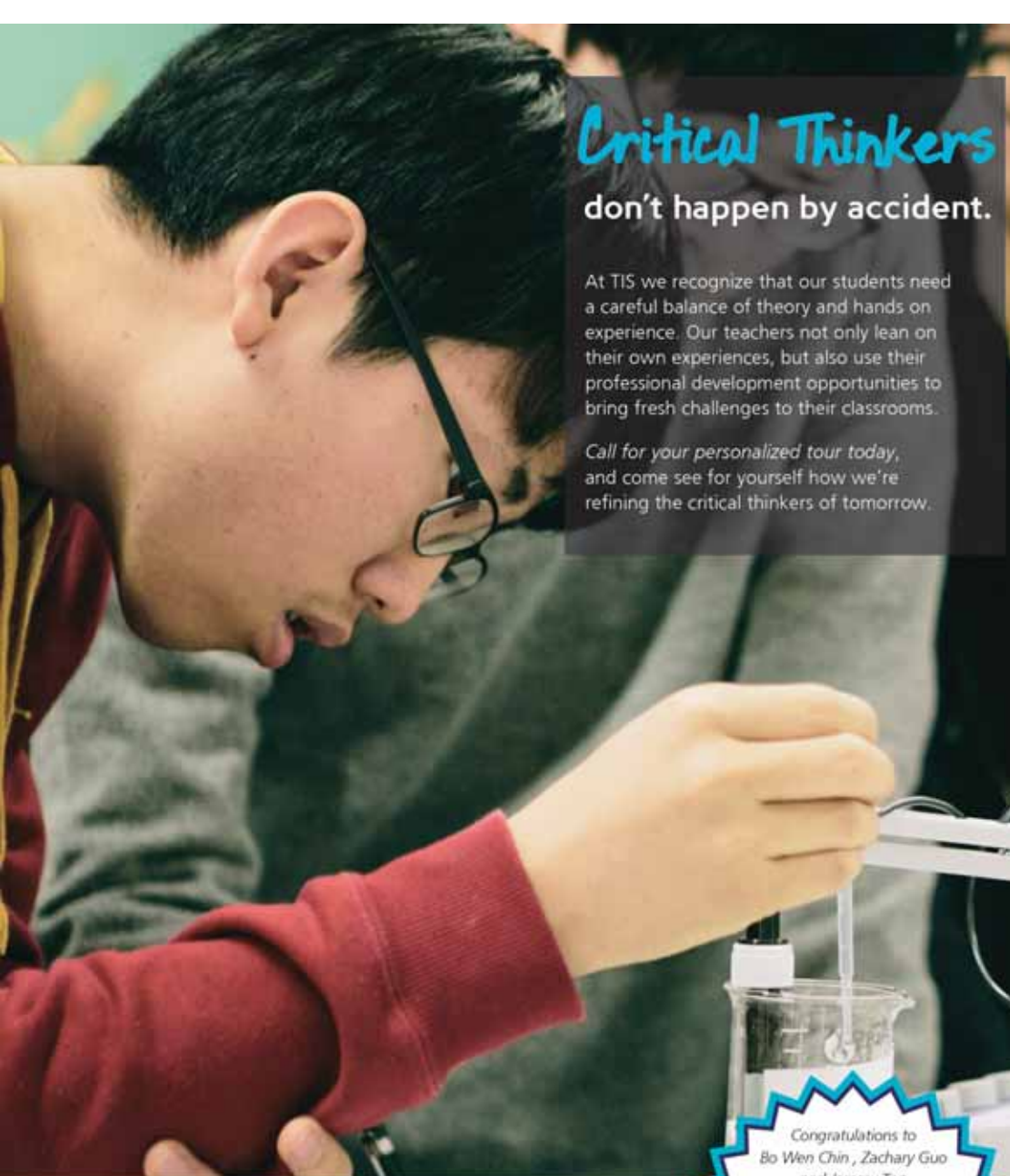
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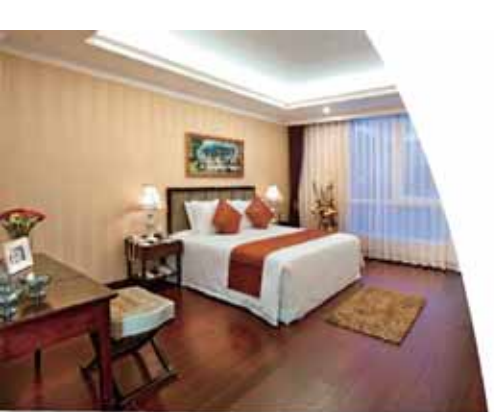
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* Terms & Conditions Apply
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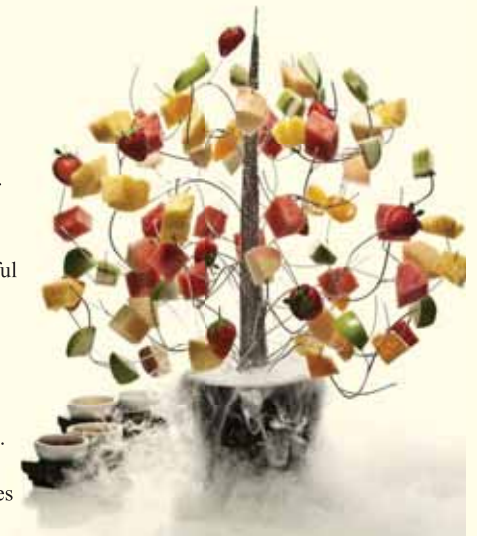
It is a first class restaurant which combines modern culinary trends with an historic atmosphere.

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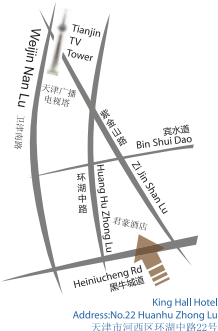
活力城市 多彩晨练

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New Tianjin Location Starting November 4th at King Hall Hotel
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Please contact Scott Carlson with any questions:
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Letter from the Editor

One of the major changes in Tianjin over the last five years is the increasing number of five-star hotels. Not only has the city been enriched with their splendid buildings designed by world-class architects but they have made the life in our sometimes placid city a bit more exciting.

When I was a child in the 1990s, I remember the Hyatt Grand Hotel, which is now closed, and the Crystal Palace Hotel which were the only two five star hotels in town. At the time, I was told that these hotels were not for lao bai xing, the common folk, but only for foreigners and rich people. It was even said that Chinese residents were not even allowed inside, though I doubt this was true.

So in my mind, these places were like isolated fortresses that had little to do with my life. I could never imagine that they would ever become an important part of my life. However, fortunately my job has given me opportunity to visit these places and now I know something about their uniqueness and their culture. Now, I like to celebrate special occasions at these hotels and treat my family and friends. It's all because these hotels have become more accessible and welcoming to us all.

The prosperity in our hospitality industry is directly related to the economic and social development of our city. In the late 19th century, when Tianjin became a busy treaty port, a foreign-funded hotel in Tianjin, the Astor, was established. In the next 150 years, the legendary hotel has survived the many changes in China and Tianjin. Now it has been reborn yet again.

The 150th anniversary of Astor Hotel is an important indicator of the glorious history of the hotel industry in Tianjin. I believe that this anniversary marks the beginning of another brilliant era not just for the hotel but for Tianjin as well.

最近五年来天津最大的变化之一就是五星级酒店的快速扩张。这些风格独特的酒店建筑不但丰富了这座城市的风景区，也让人们的生活变得更加多彩。

我小的时候（上世纪90年代）只知道凯悦和水晶宫两家酒店。大人们说，这两家酒店不是给老百姓开的，只接待外宾和有钱人。甚至有人说，这些地方是不让老百姓进的。当然我对此说法表示怀疑！

在我的印象里，这些地方就像是城市里孤立的堡垒，和我的生活没有任何关系。我无论如何也不会想到这些大酒店能够成为我现在生活的重要部分。工作的关系让我有机会走进它们，了解每家酒店背后的文化价值。这些酒店不再贴着“闲人免进”的标签，而是以开放热情的态度欢迎所有客人的光顾。

酒店业的繁荣与当地经济和社会发展息息相关。19世纪末，天津成为繁忙的通商口岸，利顺德大酒店就诞生于此时。150年后，这家酒店已经成为一个传奇，记载着这座城市的历史变迁。

利顺德走过的150年标志着天津酒店业的一段辉煌历史，相信也将是另一个璀璨时代的起点。

Monica W

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JIN Magazine is looking for **freelance writers** to contribute articles to the magazine in all areas. If you are interested, please get in touch with editorial@jinmagazine.com.cn

In June issue of Jin Magazine, on P37, the name of General Manager of Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel should be Steven Yau. We sincerely apologize for the mistake.

**JIN
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天津国际学校校长

Japanese electronics retailer Yamada Denki to close store in Tianjin

■ 天津亚玛达正式关闭

位于市中心核心商圈的日本亚玛达电器商宣布6月30日正式闭店。据分析,销售业绩低迷和来自本土电器卖场和电商的价格竞争是主要原因。



Electronics retailer Yamada Denki Co. announced it will close its store in Tianjin, China, by the end of June, two years after its June 2011 opening.

The decision stemmed from poor sales due to the fierce cost competition from local electronics retailers and shopping websites.

Tianjin Happy Valley theme park to open in July, 2013

■ 天津欢乐谷主题公园预计7月开放

中国第六家欢乐谷主题公园将在7月正式开放。届时,市民可以亲身体验期待已久的木质过山车。除了室外游乐项目,欢乐谷还有多个室内场馆,让游客在冬季也可以享受游园的乐趣。



China's sixth Happy Valley Theme Park located at Dongli Lake Hot Spring Resort in Tianjin is expected to be officially opened to the public in July this year. One of most talked about facilities - the wooden roller coaster has been completed and will be ready to use at that time.

Tianjin Happy Valley has enjoyed an investment of about 2.7 billion yuan, and covers an area of 350,000 square meters. There indoor venues - Happy Hour, Heart of Ocean, Performance & Art Center will ensure the park's operation during winter times

Third optical fiber broadband internet upgrade has begun

■ 第三次光纤宽带免费提速 最快6分钟下载1G电影

为推进“智慧天津”建设,改善本市200万家庭宽带用户的服务品质,今天起,天津联通实施第三次光纤宽带免费提速。本市光纤宽带用户独享带宽最高可免费提速至25M。在实测网速情况下,最快6分钟左右就可下载一部1个G大小的电影。预计2015年前,天津联通将完成城区铜缆改光纤接入,城区住宅光纤覆盖率将达到100%,实现“光纤城市智慧天津”目标。

As part of the "Intelligent Tianjin" program, Unicom Tianjin has initiated the third free upgrade for optical fiber broadband internet users.

The highest available speeds after the upgrade will reach 25M for individual households. In a real time speed test, it took six minutes to download a 1G movie.

It is estimated that Unicom Tianjin will replace optical fiber wires with copper wire in the downtown area by 2015.

Draft unites Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei in effort to battle smog

■ 京、津、冀三地联手治理雾霾

2013年上半年,京津冀三地多次出现雾霾天气,污染指数屡创最高纪录。日前,三地联合向国务院提交通过合作机制治理空气污染的提案。该提案将涵盖污染预警发布和减少空气污染的具体措施。

The draft of a coordinated mechanism for Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province to cooperate in air pollution control has been sent to the State Council for further review, an official with Hebei's environmental department said on Tuesday.

A united organization composed of leaders from the three governments will be set up once the draft receives approval, which will help officials release early warnings on smog and allow for concerted actions to curb air pollution, said Sun Xuejun, head of the pollution control office with Hebei Environmental Protection Bureau.

"The draft will stipulate detailed actions at every level of warning and control," he said, giving an example that production would be suspended at a certain number of companies involved in the pollution if the air quality index reached a serious level.

The draft will list the exact number of companies, he said. "The State Council has received the draft and will review it as early as this month," he said. "We have reviewed the supplemental documents on Hebei a dozen times. Once the central government passes the process, making it a guideline, we will release and implement our new action plan immediately."

Hebei, Beijing and Tianjin were shrouded in off-the-charts smog and pollution levels several times during the first two months of 2013.

Tianjin expected to introduce carbon emission trading scheme

■ 首个碳排放交易权试点运行,中国“减排”加速

中国第一个正式运行的碳市场——深圳市碳排放权交易试点正式运行,此举标志着中国在碳市场建设上迈出关键性的一步。在深圳碳排放权交易启动仪式上,国家发展和改革委员会副主任解振华表示,中国共有包括天津在内的七个碳排放权交易试点省或试点市,将在今明年陆续上线。

China officially launched its first trading scheme aimed at reducing emissions on June 18.

The platform allowing businesses in the southern city of Shenzhen to trade carbon emission permits has already completed several trades, a spokeswoman for the city's foreign affairs office said.

Under the scheme, companies are assigned an emissions quota and will be able to profit from selling excess permits to other firms if they are below their quota.

China plans to open similar schemes in seven areas including Shanghai, Beijing, the port city of Tianjin and Guangdong Province by 2014, in what analysts say is a step toward a nationwide carbon market.

The pilot programs will be in areas where tens of millions of people live and cover far more emissions than the entire carbon market in Australia. They also come as the European carbon trading market has collapsed while Australia's could be scrapped depending on the outcome of national elections later this year.

China is the top producer of carbon emissions, ahead of the United States, though its per capita emissions are far less.

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The names of the honorary advisors are listed according to the alphabetical order of the first name initial.
以上荣誉顾问按姓名首字母顺序排列,排列不分先后。

WHAT'S ON

Tianjin Grand Theatre

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

7/5
Charles Dutoit, Yuja Wang and
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
大剧院音乐厅
夏尔·迪图瓦, 王羽佳与英国皇家爱
乐乐团音乐会

7/5-6
Drama Central Park West
小剧场话剧《中央公园西路》
大剧院多功能厅

7/7
Beethoven Cycle – Tianjin Grand
Opera Orchestra Series No.9
大剧院音乐厅
贝多芬全集——天津歌剧院交响乐团
系列音乐会9

7/10-11
Opera Rigoletto by Verdi
大剧院歌剧院
匈牙利国家歌剧院威尔第歌剧《弄
臣》

7/12-13
Drama The Night Life of Two Losers
大剧院多功能厅
小剧场话剧《两个底层人的夜生活》

7/13
Zhongguo Sheng & Hiroko Seta
Violin & Piano Concert
大剧院音乐厅
盛中国瀨田裕子小提琴钢琴名曲音乐
会

7/14
Opera Il trovatore by Verdi
大剧院歌剧院
匈牙利国家歌剧院威尔第歌剧《游吟
诗人》

7/19-20
Drama P.S.I Love You
大剧院多功能厅
小剧场话剧《P.S.我爱你》

7/19-21
Opera Aida by Verdi
大剧院歌剧院
匈牙利国家歌剧院威尔第歌剧《阿依
达》

7/25
BBC Concert Orchestra
大剧院音乐厅
BBC音乐会管弦乐团音乐会

7/26
Peking Opera Yu Tang Chun
大剧院歌剧院
上海京剧院和天津京剧院京剧《玉堂
春》

7/27
Peking Opera Yang Silang visits his
mother, Gui Fei Zui Jiu
大剧院歌剧院
上海京剧院和天津京剧院京剧双出
《四郎探母坐宫》《贵妃醉酒》

7/27
Tiffin Boys' Choir
大剧院音乐厅
伦敦蒂芬男童合唱团音乐会

7/27-28
Puppet Show Dedicated to the
Children
大剧院小剧场
献给小朋友们的木偶戏

7/27-28
Drama The Founding of The Family
大剧院多功能厅
小剧场话剧《建家小业》

7/28
Opera Die Meistersinger von
N ü mberg Concert Form – Tianjin
Grand Opera Orchestra Series
No.10
大剧院音乐厅
音乐会版歌剧《纽伦堡的名歌
手》——天津歌剧院交响乐团系列音
乐会10

8/2-3
Drama Leftover Woman
大剧院多功能厅
小剧场话剧《剩女郎》

8/2-4
Ballet Midsummer Night's Dream
大剧院歌剧院
芭蕾舞剧《仲夏夜之梦》

Western Shore Museum

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

7/05
String instrument and bamboo flute
concert
高山流水——琴箫合奏音乐会



7/12
Guitar solo show
大师风采:李质伟吉他独奏音乐会



7/20
String instrument quartet concert
仲夏夜之梦——弦乐四重奏专场音乐会



7/26
Severn strings plucked instrument
concert
古香琴缘——玩香拾趣古琴独奏音乐会



7/27
Unplugged Kun Opera
荷月清音——西岸昆曲清唱会



Don't Miss



Jazz on the River

The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin is proudly to present the first JAZZ ON THE RIVER night. An unforgettable summer night at The Astor Hotel Pier, featuring Timeless Jazz performances, International BBQ Buffet and grand lucky draw prizes are waiting for your discovery. Experience this summer 150 years of luxury, entertainment and exceptional service of The Astor Hotel Tianjin.

Entrance: RMB280 per person (including performance & BBQ Buffet)
RMB350 per person (including performance, BBQ Buffet & endless selected beer)
Date: Saturday 20th July 2013
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: The Astor Hotel Pier
LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE. Advanced reservations required.
Terms and Conditions apply.
For more information or to make a reservation call 86.22.23311 688 / 8887 or mail reservation.astor@luxurycollection.com.

Tianjin Concert Hall

No. 88, Jianshe Road, Heping
Tel: 23320068
天津音乐厅 和平区建设路88号

7/12
Jou Hisaishi & Miyazaki Hayao
works Concert
天津音乐厅
久石让和宫崎骏作品音乐会

7/14
Luobin Wang Works and Russian
Classics Songs Choral Concert
天津音乐厅
北京春之声合唱团王洛宾作品与俄罗
斯经典民歌合唱音乐会

7/21
Hongyan Zhang Pipa Recital
天津音乐厅
章红艳“且弹且谈——琵琶音乐会”

7/26
Children's Chorus of Washington
天津音乐厅
美国华盛顿童声合唱团音乐会

7/27
Jeju Wind Orchestra
天津音乐厅
韩国济州管乐交响乐团音乐会

Bin Hai International Exhibition Center

No. 29 Shishang Dong Road,
Binhai New Area
滨海国际会展中心
滨海新区时尚东路29号泰达时尚广场内
(泰达大街东海路口)
Tel: 65302888



7/06/13/20/27
2013 Tianjin Binhai Middle and High
Class Small Scale Recruitment Fair
2013天津滨海中高端小规模专场招聘会



TIANJIN'S HOTELS

CRUCIAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by Paula Taylor, David Wong

回首天津百年酒店史

今天，天津是我们引以为豪的一座城市。而在二三十年前，很多外国人还不知道中国有这么一座城市。一些在那个时候就来过天津的外国人在说起这几十年的变化时，总是感慨万分。在他们的故事中，酒店住宿的经历总是不可缺少的一个章节。

上世纪八九十年代，外国人只能下榻在为数不多的几个涉外酒店里。在天津，只有凯悦大酒店、喜来登酒店、友谊宾馆等几家涉外酒店。尽管如此，无论是从设施、服务还是用餐上都不能尽如人意。当时来天津的外国人大部分是出差的外商，有的为了节省时间住到工厂附近的招待所。更新签证的时候，还因此被警察盘问了4个小时，而那家招待所也挨了罚。

说起天津酒店业的历史也并不全是那些令人尴尬的回忆。今年7月，天津利顺德大酒店就将迎来150年华诞。它不仅是我们今天看到的那个典雅庄重的五星级大酒店，其背后还承载着关于这座城市的记忆。

现在的利顺德大酒店全名叫做天津利顺德大酒店豪华精选酒店，分为海河翼新楼和利顺德老楼两个部分。很多中国客人选择入住老楼，尤其是那些历史名人曾经下榻的房间。这些房间还保留着100年前的风格，人们喜欢在这样的环境下想象当年曾发生的故事。

如果你想了解更多关于酒店的历史，你不妨到地下一层去参观一下利顺德博物馆。那里保存着大量的历史资料和物品。你甚至能看到一套1876年出版的《莎士比亚全集》。

150年来，酒店经历过多次历史动荡和易主。最终在天津市政府的努力下，使这座建筑成为宝贵的历史遗产得到修复和保护。

现在，高档酒店不再是人们仰望的对象，它们已经融入普通人的生活。即使你住在天津，你仍然可以在这些酒店中得到优质的休闲娱乐体验。在近几年相继开业的众多五星级酒店中，有的以异国美食见长，有的拥有世界上最舒服的床，有的配有设施齐全的健身房和泳池，还有的以精致酒吧为亮点。每家酒店都有自己的特色，而且都以开放热情的态度欢迎所有客人的光临。

Of course now we are very proud of Tianjin, but go back a decade or two and we would not have recognised the city. It must have been extremely interesting to have been around back then, and to witness the rebirth of Tianjin. The hotel industry here has gone from strength to strength, from humble beginnings has appeared what some may say is one of the most interesting hotels in the world. We may think that the Ritz in Paris or the Savoy in London are full of history and stories of famous guests. In Tianjin too we have the Astor hotel, which can rival them both in many ways. We also have many other fine hotels that do as much to attract visitors as some of Tianjin's other famous tourist sites. However it wasn't always the case, in the past the hotel industry was very basic. Some businessmen who have very vivid memories of that time shared them with us. A point to keep in mind is that back then foreigners could only stay in the designated hotels that were approved for foreign guests.

Not So Comfortable Back Then

Back in the 80s and 90s there were quite a few hotels that were catering for foreign guests, for instance, The Sheraton, The Hyatt, The Astor, the Crystal Palace, the Friendship Hotel, etc. Actually when government ministers come here, they generally stay in those hotels.

Roy says "When I first came to Tianjin in September 1995, I was met at Beijing airport by the Nankai University minibus and driven directly to the Foreign Specialists' residential dorm. The beds were rock hard but there were comfortable chairs in the sitting room of the suite. I enjoyed buying local calligraphy and hanging it all over the room. A cleaning woman came daily to empty the trash and change the sheets periodically". It must have been quite a shock to be taken to a university campus rather than to a hotel. He continues "If expats or business people wanted to stay in Tianjin for a few days their options were quite limited". There is no way that we can say our options are limited now, we have so many different styles of hotel to choose from and there surely something to suit everyone's tastes and pockets.

In a way I really envy people who were in Tianjin a long time ago before the city transformed itself from a caterpillar into a butterfly – well okay that is a bit far-fetched, you would have to have a good imagination to think of Tianjin as a butterfly, but if you have been here for some time, then like me you will be delighted with the changes that have taken place and which we are all benefiting from.

Mr. Wang is the Vice President of Tak International a Canadian company that has been doing business in Tianjin for over 20 years and employs over ten people. He told us. "When I first came here I stayed in the Tianjin Guest Hotel (天津宾馆), a typical Chinese government guest house built in the 50s with Russian influence. It was antiquated. The service was not great at all because of the state run enterprise mentality of staff. At that time (20+ years ago) there was the Crystal Palace Hotel and Friendship Hotel available for expats and business people. Later on in the late 80s the Hyatt Hotel and Sheraton hotels became available that offered better options". Actually, although I think it must have been interesting to stay in a hotel back then, I am still grateful to be here at a time when hotels can offer us exactly what we need, rather than struggle with the facilities or lack of them, bad food and poor service.

One experience I wanted to include was Phil Harnett's. He came to China in 1994 and was based in Dalian. Although our article is about Tianjin, Phil's experiences were so fascinating that I felt our readers would be very interested to read them. He says "When I first came to China I lived in Dalian, in 1994, all hotels had to be especially licensed to house Westerners. In Dalian there were only 2 hotels that had such a license - the Holiday Inn and the Furama - a Japanese brand. As the Furama was very Japanese in every way, most Westerners stayed at the Holiday Inn. People would stand and stare at us, and children would come up to me and try to touch my beard in the market street". Well you know what, it is 2013 and although I don't have a beard, people stand and stare at me, so this is one respect in which time seems to have stood still.

Phil continues "During a busy time, we decided to move from the hotel to live in a small guest house run by the factory. When it was time to renew our visas we went to the local police station and told them our address and they put us in a cell for 4 hours whilst they investigated, as we were illegal. The guest house owner had to pay a fine and we were sent back to the Holiday Inn. The Holiday Inn did have a Western restaurant, but the food there was not very good - I think getting raw ingredients such as pasta and cheese was difficult in those days. There were many things we could not buy, bread, cheese, fresh milk, baked beans, well actually just about anything Western. We did have the Friendship Store that was supposed to sell these things but it never had them. I can remember in about 1996 seeing 2 bottles of imported red wine for the first time in a supermarket, so I bought both and we had a party for 10 in the hotel. How things have changed!" Yes indeed, we can buy almost anything we want now, although sometimes I have to go to one shop for some things and then another shop for others etc. Imagine not being able to buy chocolate.....I shudder to think.

He continues "I also remember Dalian getting its 1st KFC in about 1996. All of the Westerners were very excited and on the opening day walked the short distance from the hotel to KFC for our evening meal. What a disappointment - the queue of Chinese people stretched for maybe 100m out of the door and down the street. There was no way we were going to eat that night. In fact I don't think we ate there until about 4 days later when the queues had reduced". Well now I am sure you are able to eat all the KFC you want, one thing we are not short of in China is KFCs.

He continues "I also remember with great fondness the street food in those days. Now it has almost disappeared from the city streets, which I think is a great shame. On every corner would be a small tent with some small BBQ's and people eating all sorts of things. Washed down with a small bottle of Bai Jiu there was no better meal for taste and value. Many a great night was spent eating and chatting to the locals in our bad Chinese. Now everything is cleaned up and supposed



to be better - but I think China has lost some of its identity by clearing away what people enjoyed most. There are still a few small streets where you can buy this food - but it gets harder and harder each year".

Brian also told us what he remembers of the hotels available back then, he says "The hotels I remember were visited from the late 1980's to the 1990's. Tianjin Grand Hotel: this was a huge hotel that was spread out over a very large area with old dark concrete buildings. It was my understanding that it was a hotel for Government Officials and it included a pharmacy, nursing care, etc. It was cold and Spartan at least in North American terms. Meals (breakfast) were of the Chinese style with no one having any ability to speak English. Breakfast communication was done by sign language which caused more laughter than anything".

I hope these guys realise how precious their experiences and memories of old Tianjin are. Those times have disappeared, and what they lacked in comfort, is more than compensated by the intensely interesting times to be had. I think they should get together and write a book about it.

As we are speaking of Tianjin's past, we really need to take another look at that remarkable hotel that existed way before the above gentlemen came to Tianjin and still it exists today. Its endurance is a testimony to the love and care with which it was created. This hotel is the jewel in Tianjin's crown and has contributed significantly to the development of Tianjin. Let us now examine this hotel – The Astor.

The Astor Hotel – Pride of Tianjin’s Tourist Trade

I Previously I thought the Astor was just another nice hotel, one of the many that we have in Tianjin. However, after going there recently I have had my thinking adjusted. I also now realise how important it is to the history of Tianjin, as outstanding events have taken place there in the past, and it would not be an exaggeration to say that these events actually contributed to the development of modern China. This year is very special as they are celebrating their 150 year anniversary.

It is a remarkable hotel, in fact with the Astor you get two hotels for the price of one as there is an old part and a new part and guests can choose from them both. The old part has been perfectly preserved and you can stay in the original suite that Sun Yat Sen stayed in. For those who are not familiar with Chinese history, he was the founding father of the Republic of China. When I toured the hotel, I wondered who would choose to stay in the old part, as the new part was more to my taste, being big and bright and beautiful, whereas the old part is all dark wood, heavy furniture, and old style fixtures and fittings. However this part of the hotel is extremely popular, it is unique and attracts Chinese people who love their country’s history. Being able to stay in a former leader’s room is an irresistible draw for them. I love history myself and I studied Chinese history, so as I stood in one of these old rooms I imagined all the secret meetings going on and all the covert deals that were made back then.

The Astor started life as a very simple one storey structure known as the Mud House, you can guess why. An extract from a book says this: “Countless hand carts followed one after another in one long line, bringing the muddy soil containing malaria bacteria”. Just think, next time you get bitten by a mosquito, it may well be the descendant of those early mosquitoes - even they are part of the history and development of Tianjin!

The hotel’s name is derived from the three Chinese characters Li Shun De. These are related to Confucianism and loosely mean “power of understanding” and “power of reason”. The hotel was the first ever foreign hotel in modern history. There are so many famous names connected with this hotel, that I would run out of space before I could list them all. If you like history, or even if you just want to understand more about the city in which you live, I heartily recommend a trip to the museum in the basement of the Astor. You don’t have to be staying there to do a tour, you just pay the entrance fee of 50 yuan and slice of the past can be yours.

It was really a stroke of genius to establish this museum, there are priceless relics and artefacts from the past. There are things like old menus and other paraphernalia relating to hotel business, old ledgers and guest lists. There is even a bible dating back to 1873, and a complete works of Shakespeare from 1876. Can you imagine how much they are worth?

As it was the first foreign hotel in China, it quickly became a centre of activity, both politically and commercially. Some of the people who were involved with the hotel contributed greatly to the development of Tianjin and even China. For instance a German named Detring Von Gustav was responsible for the creation of Ma Chang Dao and Wei Jin Lu.



Guest House (taken in 1925)



Lobby (taken in 1926)

Another German, Constantin Von Hannekon, developed the first ever telegraph line in China and established the post office in Tianjin. He is also famous for another reason, he fought alongside the Chinese against the Japanese army, so of course that makes him very dear to Chinese hearts. There were many other foreigners who were crucial to Tianjin’s development and reading about them makes a refreshing change from reading about what harm the foreign powers did here after the opium wars.



The Banqueting Hall of Astor Hotel (taken in 1926)



The exterior of Astor Hotel (taken in 1895)

One story that I was not so enamoured of was Zhang Xue Liang, a famous general and hero during the power struggle in China, all Chinese people know him and he is a romantic figure in their eyes. His young son died and he naturally was bereft. To cheer him up, when he was staying at the Astor, someone introduced him to the young and beautiful Zhao Yi Di. He left his wife for her and subsequently married her, they were married for over 60 years. Chinese people find it very romantic. I asked my museum guide “But what happened to his poor

wife, she had lost her son too. Who comforted her?” My guide was nonplussed, I ruined the atmosphere. Ask your Chinese friends about this story and see if they think it is romantic, then mention Zhang’s previous wife and you will hear the tumbledweed roll by and the wind whistle. What Chinese people find romantic about this story is that they were together for so long and eventually when Zhang Xue Liang died, Miss Zhao was by his side. They also are touched by the fact that by the time his first wife granted him a divorce and he was free to marry Miss Zhao, he was 64 and she was 52.



In 1886 the hotel was turned into a three storey building and it became increasingly more important on the political scene. Various treaties were signed there and more and foreign businessmen started to come into the city to establish their businesses.

The hotel has seen some turbulent times, a silent witness to the political upheaval. It has survived being attacked during the boxer rebellion, in May 1900 when the whole city was set on fire. The records say “The hotel was fired on repeatedly. Each shell would destroy the interior walls and furniture and caused several hundred dollars damage. A shell passed through a wall and exploded inside which damaged the ceiling, walls, and three doors and caused the roof to fall in”. When the Japanese army invaded Tianjin and committed atrocities and then tried to blame the British and French for the murder of 400 young Tianjin men, the Astor became the centre of resistance activities. When the Japanese declared war on Britain and the United States in 1941, the Japanese moved into the hotel and in 1943 officially took it over. The Chairman of the Board of the hotel, William O’Hara and his wife were taken to prison camps and the hotel was renamed the Asian Hotel. It survived the war and it was here in 1945 that the Japanese commander formally surrendered. By that time the hotel was in a terrible state, and it was not clear whether or not it could be saved, but saved it was and it survived the earthquake that was the Cultural Revolution and it even survived the literal earthquake of 1976.

Now the hotel belongs to the Government, in that it is the property of the tourist board. They are dedicated to protecting the valuable heritage that the Astor represents.

The Astor provides a remarkable insight to a more gracious time, a more genteel way of living. It is a living link to the past that is still thriving. There are no other hotels that have made such an indelible stamp on Chinese history. If you have the time I recommend the museum tour. If you have a little money to spend, why not stay a night or two and soak up the atmosphere.

FEATURE

A General Manager's Eye View

I remember speaking to Christian Metzner soon after he had taken over as GM of the Astor. He told me at the time he was really excited about his new job, as he really likes the hotel and was anxious to make his mark. He confirmed that he is still enthusiastic about the job and told me what in particular is special for him. "There are many wonderful features at this hotel, for instance in 1996 it became the only luxury hotel in China classified as a national historical monument. I also like the many original features that still exist, such as in the lobby there is an original carved wooden staircase and aged polished wooden floors. Other interesting features include the 1924 OTIS cage elevator and a 1920s telephone which have been restored, and archival photographs of famous guests are hung on the walls".

Anyone who chooses to stay at the hotel must be of a particular type, surely many history enthusiasts would be attracted. However Christian says that although they have many diverse guests they all have the same thing in common, that is travellers who are seeking an authentic experience that can deliver a lasting memory. Their guests are global explorers, businessmen and women and also families and young couples on vacation who crave a different experience.

It must be quite an exciting time to be involved with the hotel now and everyone is busy preparing for the 150 years' anniversary celebration. Christian said "This celebration underlines The Astor's peerless heritage as an eye-witness to China's and Tianjin's history. The Astor was a hub of society and it has many "firsts", for instance, it was the first hotel in China with a telephone and the first building in China to install an elevator and switch on an electric light. In Tianjin, it was the first establishment with both running water and central heating. I am very much honored and proud to have the opportunity to be part of such an important celebration, which will truly go into the history books of our hotel and those of Tianjin. Who knows, perhaps in 150 Years from now, the future hotel team will go through the hotel's archives and will remember our 150 Years' Birthday Celebration in 2013".

What about the celebration itself, what has been lined up? Christian was happy to share their preparations with us - actually they are quite exciting and another "first". He told us "As part of our 150 Years' Anniversary we will release in the middle of next month our own TV Documentary. During the last year, together with CCTV we have captured the history of our hotel on tape, which we are going to release on the 19th July 2013. People in China will get a unique access into our hotel and Tianjin history.

Besides the TV Documentary we will host several other celebration events. On the 19th July 2013 we will have our official birthday event in our hotel. The team has created an evening full of entertainment, excellent service and culinary highlights. On July 20th 2013 we will host the first "Jazz on The River" event in Tianjin which will take place in front of our hotel on the hotel's own boat pier. Besides this we will host more and more events in the last quarter of 2013".



I asked him what the best thing about his hotel is and he said "I really enjoy having the opportunity to offer guests an experience beyond what a normal branded luxury hotel can offer. Guests wishing to experience the heritage of the hotel can choose for example the historical Astor Wing while guests who prefer more of a contemporary luxury experience are at the right place in our Hai He River Wing". Like I said, two hotels for the price of one.

The last thing he had to say was this "During the last 150 Years the hotel has seen many events and welcomed famous visitors. Today we can welcome visitors from far away whose family history started at the Astor Hotel Tianjin". The Astor has proved that it can withstand the test of time and it completes Tianjin's historical map.



Dedicated to Helping Others – Bob Wang (王)

Mr. Wang, Chief Concierge, is usually the first and last person I see when I stay at The Astor Hotel in Tianjin. I can always count on a smile and a happy greeting. It is fitting to feature him in an interview for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Astor Hotel. Mr. Wang has dedicated almost 20 years of service to the Astor and last year was awarded the prestigious Golden Key Award by the hotel tourism industry.

Jin: Mr. Wang, please tell us some of your personal information.

Bob: I am 40 and born in LaiZhou, Shandong province, married and one daughter aged 9 who is studying English and dance.

Jin: How long have you been with the Astor and what positions have you held?

Bob: I started at the Astor in 1994 as a waiter and then promoted to the Western restaurant then to the bar. In 2000, I held positions with the Union and Human Resources and presently I am the Chief Concierge.

Jin: The Astor is celebrating its 150th anniversary next month. Why do you think the Astor has been so successful and continue to operate?

Bob: The Astor has been able to receive continuous support from the Tianjin Tourist Group throughout its history. The Astor has a very consistent reputation and the employees are dedicated and receive excellent training.

Jin: Who are some of the famous guests that have stayed at the Astor during your last 19 years?

Bob: There have been many but two that come to mind is DENG Ya Ping, the Ping Pong champion and TONG Jian Hua, the Chief Representative of Hong Kong SAR and also Mr. Brown, Prime Minister of Britain.

Jin: What are some of your most memorable moments at Astor?

Bob: In addition to meeting the people mentioned, I think the most memorable event was in 2009 when Astor became part of the Starwood International system.

Jin: You have a great smile every time I see you. What happens when you are in a bad mood?

Bob: When I put on my black uniform and my Golden Key badges, I forget about all my personal problems and become a new person. I concentrate on serving the guests. It's like a movie actor in a film.

Jin: You are so busy and have so many responsibilities, how do you organize your day and not forget what needs to be done?

Bob: It's the small things that are important to the guests so I want to make sure their expectations are met. I usually enter lists into my cell phone and check them before going off duty. I also rely on colleagues, so good communication is also important.

Jin: What do you like to do in your spare time and where have you been on your holidays? What is the best hotel where you have stayed?

Bob: During my working hours, I dedicate my service to Astor guests, so when I am at home, I think I should extend my service to my wife and daughter. I like to cook for them when I am home and I like singing. We have spent a holiday in Qingdao and my favorite hotel was the Starwood Le Meridien.

Jin: What are your future goals?

Bob: Provide my best service to the Tianjin Tourist Group, maintain my Golden Key designation (there are annual standards to be maintained in order for the holder to retain the award) and finally provide the best service to Astor guests.

FEATURE

Who stays at the Astor?

David, a businessman who first came to China 20 years ago says "Although I did not stay overnight in a hotel during my first visit, I do recall stopping at the Astor Hotel for lunch. At that time it was not part of the Starwood Group. It was interesting to visit a hotel that was over 100 years old. We had dumplings at what was regarded as the most famous dumpling restaurant in Tianjin. The dumplings were very good, unfortunately, it is no longer open. My favourite hotel in Tianjin is definitely the Astor. I stay there almost every month and know all the staff. I like the flavour and atmosphere of the vintage venue. If you go, make sure to visit their museum in the lower floor. It will not only provide a history of the 150 year old Astor, but you will learn about Tianjin". David has repeatedly told me of the experiences he has had in the hotel and of the way they take care of their guests. Maybe I am also due a visit.

As he is a regular guest there he must have some good experiences to share with us, he says "I have had many good experiences at the Astor. Probably my favourite is the time I left my bag with my wallet in the washroom near the restaurant. I didn't remember for over an hour and when I went back to retrieve it was gone. I checked with the front desk and one of their cleaners had found it and turned it in - nothing was missing. I offered a reward but was told it was not necessary, it was their duty: "应该的!" This means of course they should return it".

Hotels And Their Relevance For Us

We really are fortunate to be living in Tianjin at a time when it is just developing enough so as to make it extremely comfortable for foreigners living here, whilst still retaining its historical importance. We have the best of both worlds!



Travellers to Tianjin are spoilt for choice as there are so many great hotels that it really must be difficult to choose between them. Roy who lives in Beijing says "The Westin is my favourite hotel as it is well situated downtown, has comfortable beds, good food (Italian included), and responsive service. Recently I was amazed to overhear a Chinese man yelling at the Westin front desk for no valid reason. It struck me that we foreigners are the new poor, the locals are the new rich and their expectations now are high".

Brian Trendel told us "Depending on the people coming and their reason, I would recommend several alternatives, but 99% of the time we have visitors who are related to our business, so I recommend the Tianjin Renaissance Hotel because it is a well-run facility with an excellent Health Club, support for business people and an excellent breakfast. It is also close to the subway station, shopping and many restaurants within walking distance. The Management and staff are attentive and very professional.

Phil Harnett finds some aspects of Tianjin difficult, so for him there

is only one choice, he says "I hate the city centre, as the traffic and congestion along with the pollution are so bad I never go there unless I have to. For my own personal stays and all of my business visitors we use the Holiday Inn Riverside, as it is easy to get to from my factory in Wujing and away from the city traffic. If I have to attend a meeting downtown - I stay at the Holiday Inn and then use a taxi. That way in the morning I can drive out easily and quickly". He finds staying downtown difficult and inconvenient, but if you ask other regular visitors to Tianjin, they find that staying downtown makes everything accessible to them. From there the transport system makes it easy to shop, visit the other hotels and generally get around far more quickly than they would by staying, well not downtown.

Each hotel has a different speciality. Some are famous for their haute cuisine. Guests can choose international food such as Italian or French and there is no need for them to leave the hotel to find a good meal. The Chinese restaurants in each hotel also provide high quality Chinese food. One hotel is famous for its Hong Kong dishes, which no doubt Chinese guests will be pleased with, so although they may not be able to actually go to Hong Kong, they can at least experience it through the food. One hotel is especially famous for its comfortable beds. Others have placed a large emphasis on the leisure facilities such as the gym and swimming pool. Still others are able offer fantastic spa facilities. One hotel even has a salsa bar which is free for ladies on Fridays and Saturdays.

One of best things about the hotels here is that they are so welcoming, popping in for lunch or afternoon tea is relatively easy and comfortable. Maybe you don't have the funds to stay in some of the more luxurious hotels, but you can still have the option of eating there and of using the facilities, as gym membership is quite reasonable.

Apart from the luxurious 5 star hotels, there are also many four stars ones that also offer a high standard of comfort. It may be if you live in Tianjin that you see no need to go to a local hotel. I like to treat myself to the odd night away, as it a little bit of luxury in what sometimes is a sea of stress and busyness. My Chinese friends think I am crazy, but it really makes a difference to have an occasional oasis, and I find that only here can I afford five star luxury. I could never afford to stay in a five star hotel back in England, so I want to make the most of the opportunities here. There is no doubt about it, the many good hotels here have contributed to Tianjin's economic development.

According to Liu Guiming, Director of Department of Quality Regulation and Administration of Tianjin Travel Bureau, from 2006 the high quality hotels rapidly increased in Tianjin and there were several reasons for this; the economic situation developed rapidly, restrictions on foreign affairs were lifted, the investment climate was very favourable and the environment here started to improve. They are satisfied that at present the current amount of hotels is sufficient for the needs of the tourist industry.

Future Plans

Are you already satisfied with what we have at the moment? The municipal government may not think so. The pace of development should never stop. Director Liu said: "By the year 2015, we hope to have fifty 5 star hotels here. Our focus is also to get the hotels to improve the quality of the service and standards they provide and to create more boutique hotels".

It seems as though it is really a buyers' market and no longer do travellers to Tianjin have to worry about finding somewhere decent to stay, they can take their pick from the finest the hotel industry has to offer.

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Two men behind the Astor.

By Andrea Klopfer

利顺德酒店历史上重要的两个人

天津利顺德酒店即将迎来150岁生日，所以我们不妨回顾两位在利顺德历史上十分重要的人——殷森德和海维林。

1860年天津开埠后，随着各国商人入境开展自由贸易，传教士也接踵而来。据记载，至1861年年底，除占领军外，当时天津只有十几个外国人，他们虽以外交官、商人和传教士的面目出现，但却都有着多重或重身份，有的官员兼开洋行，有的传教兼做生意，有的商人兼任官职，英国传教士殷森德便是其中的一个。他既是英国基督教会第一个来津的传教士，也是利顺德饭店的创始人。1861年4月4日，殷森德乘船从上海抵津。1862，殷森德通过英国驻津代理领事吉布逊，参与了英租界工部局的工作，并成为董事之一。1863年年初，他承租了英租界29号地基的19.9英亩土地。几个月后，殷森德便雇用民夫在他购买的土地最南端，建立了一处简式的英式印度风情平房，作为货栈、洋行、旅馆和饭店之用，专门招待外侨，这就是利顺德饭店的雏形，人称“泥屋”、“老屋”。1897年，殷森德退休并和家人返回英国。

海维林是利顺德公司的大股东，在1916年被任命为总经理。在他的协调下，酒店在原楼的基础上增建了一排四层建筑，扩充了40多间客房。1925年，改建后的利顺德酒店重新开业。1943年，侵华日军占领酒店，海维林和其家人被遣送到潍坊集中营。1945年日军投降后，海维林向当时的国民党政府和英国政府发出请求，希望继续管理酒店。虽然他在1945年10月如愿以偿回到酒店，但时局的变化令酒店生意大不如前。解放后，他恋恋不舍地离开了中国，最终在新西兰病逝。

As the Astor House Hotel celebrates its 150th anniversary, it is worth considering two men related to its existence. John Innocent was reputedly its founder while William O' Hara was its last and longest serving manager when it was under foreign ownership.

John Innocent.

John Innocent was not in the military, wasn't an adventurer as were many who washed up on China's shores in the mid nineteenth century, and was not a businessman seeking to take advantage of the newly opened ports after the Second Opium War (1860). He was a missionary, the first of a small but enthusiastic band of Methodists of the New Connexion Missionary Society. His father had supported the group in Sheffield where John was born on 10th October 1829. His first job at aged 16 was as a grinder working from 7a.m. to 8 p.m. after which he went to night school. As his religious convictions became stronger, he set up a young men's group, taught Sunday school and served a seven year apprenticeship acting in various capacities within Methodist circuits in England. While attending a key conference in Manchester in 1859, he was excited to hear of developments in China and was subsequently appointed with Mr Hall to step into this new ministry. As his wife, Jane who he had married in 1856, became unwell, she and their two-year old son, George, remained behind initially. They were among those who waved good-bye to the fine clipper-built ship carrying a number of missionaries to the East.



Above: Mr and Mrs Innocent (from Candlin 1909).

As for most, their jumping off point was Shanghai, but they were sent on north to the newly opened treaty port of Tientsin "with its boundless possibilities untouched" (Candling 1909:53). On 15 March 1861, they sailed for a further twenty days, took a Chinese mule cart on a dusty road to the place where they were to be based. It was not easy



Above: Advertisement in the early days of the hotel (Peking and Tientsin Times March 7, 1896).



Above: postcard of the hotel c.1902.

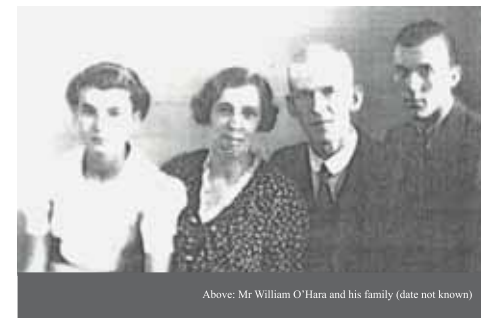
to find somewhere to live and Innocent spent his first weeks learning what food was available and that furniture could be made locally. Apart from getting to know Tientsin, he ministered to the remaining foreign soldiers, visiting their sick in the military hospital where many were suffering fever and heatstroke. It was here he met Captain Gordon (see June issue of JIN). Sunday services were held for the British soldiers (some 3000 in 1860-2) and the few foreign residents. He learnt mandarin with a tutor and would go out for walks, engaging with those Chinese who were willing to talk with him, often passing on tracts. He got to know some ten to twelve boys who he formed into a little school as much to help him with his Chinese as to teach them Bible! By September, Mrs Innocent joined him, similarly starting a school for Chinese girls. She then gave birth to their second child, Annie Edkins Innocent, who was the first British resident born in Tientsin and registered at the British Consulate. Subsequently two sons – Alfred and Albert – were born but died in infancy, testimony to the limited medical services available at the time.

Some months later, another first occurred when Innocent was introduced to a Mr Hu, a Chinese Christian who became an invaluable helper and the first Tientsin person to preach to his fellow Chinese (Candlin 1909: 91). A place beside a busy street was rented as a preaching room and in 1866, moved into a dilapidated tea house near the Niang Niang Gong or Tian Hou Gong which still stands on Ancient Culture Street. From these humble beginnings, a work among the Chinese grew steadily and formed the basis for today's Gu Lou Protestant Church.

Earlier, in 1862, Innocent bought 1 1/3 acres in the British settlement. Two houses were built, partly of brick and part mud, as missionary residences. It seems one of these may have been used as a kind of guest house with the name 'The Mud House' and this was a forerunner of what became the Astor House Hotel. Innocent was recognised as a very practical man and it would seem that in order to fund his various church and educational projects, a hotel was a viable idea. As one of the few foreign residents in the port, Innocent came to be appreciated for his diligence and ability to make things happen. It is therefore not surprising that he was looked to by many and supported the establishment some kind of inn more suitable for visiting foreigners than the rugged local kind. In time it would become a social hub and house various consulates until they were more established. A board of shareholders was formed enabling Innocent to be free of actually running the place. Innocent served on this as well as various civic bodies and left an enduring legacy. He retired to England in 1897 with his family, living in Nottingham and then Forest Hill. It was here he died on 27th November 1904, and was buried in the Brockley & Ladywell Cemetery, where he and his wife's red marble tombstone can still be seen.

William O'Hara

O'Hara was a close friend of Dickinson, the majority shareholder of the Astor Company Limited. He was asked to help manage the hotel, was then elected onto the hotel board and appointed general manager in 1916. In 1923, he co-ordinated the construction of an additional four storey annex with forty more rooms and bathrooms for the growing number of guests. Most of the materials came from England and the



Above: Mr William O'Hara and his family (date not known)

United States. It was completed and opened by Mrs O'Hara in 1925. They continued to develop and run the hotel which became a feature of the town until 1943 when the Japanese took control. Their commander, Unchida, installed himself as manager. O'Hara and his family, being British nationals, were sent with many others to the Weifang camp. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, the Chinese Nationalists (GuoMinDang) took over the hotel. From the camp, O'Hara had meanwhile contacted both them and the British Government in London, requesting he be permitted to continue managing the hotel which was in a very poor state of repair. October 17, 1945 saw their rather emotional return. Repairs began by the end of the year with a hotel board of nine members convened. But attempts to restore order and its previous service were shaken four years later when the People's Liberation Army made the hotel their headquarters, having liberated Tientsin. The British flag flying on the tower was replaced by the revolutionary flag. O'Hara doggedly remained. By 1950, there was only 50% occupancy and only two guests visited in 1952. Arrears in taxes were being demanded and without the guests to provide any income, the threat that O'Hara, as Board Chairman, could be imprisoned, was very real. He called and chaired an emergency meeting at which it was decided that the now bankrupt hotel should be transferred to the People's government. It would be renamed the Grand Hotel. O'Hara received a mere 8860 yuan in compensation, having devoted some fifty years of his life to the hotel. In poor health and with little but memories, he retired to New Zealand where he subsequently died.

In two different centuries, for four decades or more, these inhabitants of Tientsin contributed to the landscape of the city in enduring ways.

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Tea present box

TIME FOR TEA — TAIWAN STYLE

by Paula Taylor

天津经济新势力：台商

自2011年起，就有江苏、广东、福建等11个省市，针对广大台商普遍关心的信贷融资、财政支持、拓展内需市场、鼓励品牌建设、减轻企业负担等方面，发布了140多项惠台措施。自2012年1月1日起，北京、上海等9个省市又向台湾居民开放了申请登记个体工商户以经营餐饮和零售业。截止到现在5月，天津已经连续数年在梅江会展中心举办台湾名品小吃展等一系列大型推广活动，意味着各大内地城市对台湾同胞开放了更大市场，提供了更广的发展空间。

天津奥城商业广场的紫藤屋礼品店店长蔡女士来自宝岛台湾，之前在津的求学经历让她有机会可以深入了解天津市场。在赞叹天津经济建设飞速发展之余，蔡女士决定把极富家乡特色的优质产品引进天津，让当地消费者不必长途跋涉就能享用地道台湾风味。目前店铺主要经营茶叶，手绘茶具，以及台湾传统小点心等一系列产品，而且包装精美，也非常适合馈赠亲友。

如今，台商资产、企业已成为大陆经济社会的重要组成部分，为大陆经济发挥了积极的促进作用。据悉，相关部门将会继续为台资企业在大陆市场创造更良好的发展条件，提供更有力的政策支持，继续维护好保障好台湾同胞的正当合法权益，继续支持台企、台商业务的健康发展。

In the BHG shopping mall at the back of Ao Cheng there is an exquisite tea shop. This is no ordinary shop, its products are all high quality imports from Taiwan. Even the name of the shop is beautiful, Wisteria House. The owner, Jolin, gave us a unique insight as to how Taiwanese people start up businesses here.

Jolin explained her background. "I first came to Tianjin in 2007 to finish my degree. At that time there really was not much to Tianjin, I thought it was a place where nothing was happening, but when I came back in February of this year, I couldn't believe my eyes, the change the city has undergone is staggering, I hardly recognised the place. It's fantastic". For those of you that have already been here for a few years, you will do doubt share Jolin's sentiments. Life is great here now isn't it?

Although Jolin is Chinese and of course it must be easier for someone like her to adapt to Mainland China than it is for a Westerner, there are obviously some difficulties. She went on to say "The thing I find most difficult about living here is the pollution and the weather, it is so dry. Also I am not used to the food. In Taiwan we do not use so much oil when we cook and we also do not use MSG. The other thing is that everything closes early



Green tea

here". Don't we know it! She carried on "However apart from these things I really like living here, Tianjiners are really friendly so I am enjoying my life at the moment".

I asked her to explain the process for Taiwanese to come here. "We need a visa to come, but it is very easy and straightforward. As far as starting a business is concerned, that is also straightforward. Of course we have to satisfy the legal requirements, but the government does give us a lot of help". Wow, that easy. I spoke to a guy from Hong Kong and Hong Kong residents also have to get visas, but they get ten year ones with no problem. However it is understandable, they are all Chinese, even if they live in different places.

I also wanted to know how long the process took. "From the time I applied to open the business, to the time I got the decision was relatively short – within a month. Of course everything in my shop is imported so we have to satisfy the government that it is all quality guaranteed and wrapped well, the procedures are quite stringent, but I didn't really have any problems and once we have been cleared to do business we do not need to keep applying".

When I asked her what made her want to come here to start a business, she beamed. "My aim is to introduce the best products that Taiwan has to offer to Tianjiners. Our Oolong tea comes from Ah Li Shan, which is a tall mountain in Taiwan and the best land in the country for tea growing, and it is also my hometown so I am well aware of the quality". I have never been to Taiwan myself, but my friends rave about it, saying that Taipei is a really exciting city that is a lot like Hong Kong in terms of what it has to offer visitors. They have also confirmed to me that the food is amazing. For those of you that have started learning Chinese, I found that watching Taiwanese dramas really helped because they speak Mandarin a lot more slowly than

Mainlanders do. Just for the record famous Taiwanese singers include superstar Zhou Jie Lun, indie rock group Wu Yue Tian (one of my favourite bands), girl group S.H.E. and of course the singer that every Chinese person of every age knows, Deng Li Jun.

Jolin went on to say "There are very many Tianjiners that visit Taiwan so I really want them to be able to find the same products right here in their own city that they enjoyed on their visit". Actually not just Tianjiners but also most Mainlanders really like Taiwanese products and there are frequent sales promotions here introducing well-known brands.

Although there are a lot of tea shops on many streets, most are not really foreigner friendly, and by that I mean that although the tea is good, the backstreet shops are a little basic and they are not used to foreigners. There are other good teashops of course, but there are good reasons if you are thinking of giving someone tea as a present to visit the Wisteria House. The shop is bright and beautiful and all the products are high quality. I must mention something that really impressed me. The teabags are really beautiful, being made of a type of shiny white chiffon-like material, so they make for a lovely present. The boxes that the tea is presented in are based on Japanese style art and come in different colours that make one want to collect the whole set.

Apart from the different teas there are also edibles that make a good accompaniment in the form of pineapple shortcake, candy made from milk, and egg rolls that really taste like egg. Pineapples are probably Taiwan's most famous export so the

cakes ought to be delicious. I tried them, all in the name of research of course, and they are delicious. Best of all are the tea sets and cups and saucers. They are all hand painted and have different homilies on them regarding love and peace etc. The scenes depicted include brightly coloured fish and typical Chinese scenes. They were all painted by a master in his 70s. There are also other gift ideas designed to appeal to the senses and promote good health.

Jolin served tea to us and she gave us a lesson as to how to thoroughly enjoy the tea. The tea is first of all poured into a small porcelain cylinder which then has a cup placed over it upside down. The cylinder and the cup are then turned so that the cylinder is upside down whilst the cup is the right way up, and then the cylinder is slowly removed and rubbed between the palms of the hands. After that you have to sniff the inside of the cylinder which will let you anticipate the taste of the tea. There is also a correct way to hold the cup. Jolin really knows her stuff and her business will be a good addition to what will be a very desirable mall once all the shops are up and running.

Now we know that Chinese non-Mainlanders are welcomed with open arms to do business here and I think it is nice that, whichever piece of land they may come from, they can come to the Mainland and instantly feel at home whilst having the paths to business success smoothed for them. It is as if they are being ushered home and the different land masses are no barrier to the ties they feel to the Mainland. They are all one nation after all.



The owner of Wisteria House, Jolin



Seal Your Leaking Pipe on Time

及时堵住自身的漏洞

最近我发现不正当竞争有愈演愈烈的趋势。这种竞争最终演变成发生在我公司的一宗商业间谍和侵犯知识产权的案件。

有一天，我接到采购部门的电话，他们发现有厂家山寨我们自主研发的产品并以极低的价格在市场上销售。于是我立即召开各部门开会研究这一情况。经过讨论，大家一致认为有可能是操作部门泄露了图纸和产品描述。

我立刻开始行动。在内部调查的同时，我带着自己的法律团队前往山寨我们产品的那家本地工厂。我原计划以和平的方式解决问题，避免法律诉讼，但我想错了。他们坚持只是借用了一些产品信息，并没有抄袭我们的产品。这次会议不欢而散。所以我立刻把法律诉讼提上日程。而这又是一次漫长而痛苦的过程。最终，我们被判败诉并且遭受了巨额损失。

也许我应该一开始就报警，让他们帮我进行调查。也许是我们的技术文件未能构成有力证据或是我们法律团队的申辩缺乏力度。这次的事给我的教训是一定要加强内部的信息安全检查，堵住自身的漏洞，要在洞口变大之前抓住蛀虫！

It's getting hot around here and I'm NOT talking about the weather. I'm talking about over-competitive traders, manufacturers and suppliers in all sectors in Asia. It's becoming an alarming trend.

One result of this over-competitive spirit is that spying and copyright infringement is becoming the norm and suppliers who don't take part in such practices are now being put in a disadvantaged market position. I've recently witnessed such ill-effects personally.

It started when I received a call from our purchasing department saying that they detected counterfeit components similar to

the ones we produce at a much lower cost and that this issue was super important to solve. I called for an immediate meeting with all departments to find out more. Our quality department was specially alarmed as they are in charge of information security.

First, I wanted to know more about the company producing the components. I was told by the purchasing department that the supplier is a medium sized local manufacturer with a record of copyright infringement and getting away with it. I inquired further about how they manage to get detailed product information from their victims. I was told that they usually bribe the operators and maintenance crew to give them drawings, pictures and descriptions of the product and manufacturing systems and processes.

I turned my attention to the operations manager who was getting tense as he listened to this opinion. Of course he wanted to clean his reputation and his team's but when confronted directly about the possibility of this scenario, he agreed that it's possible that some of the production line operators might have been involved in this scandal.

I had to prioritize my actions to stop the leak and save whatever can be saved. Damage control was the first on the list of my to-do list.

I then focused on the legal side on the issue. The legal team said that they can enforce our registered copyright via local courts and the engineering team confirmed that the competitor has indeed copied parts of the component that qualify as

breakthroughs that we had registered earlier this year with a patent validity of 20 years. I therefore tasked them with studying the legal actions we could pursue and providing a legal and technical report.

The next step was to try a pacifist approach and try talk to the supplier. It was a long shot but I gathered the purchasing team and asked them to organize a visit to the supplier to discuss the issue. At the same time I asked my public relations and sales & marketing teams to start preparing a rescue campaign to reach our clients and inform them that the product is stolen and that buying it is aiding a crime in addition to exposing the defects of the cheap knock-off and its dangers.

I got myself ready to meet the supplier's team. As you might expect, the meeting was very cold and the meeting took place in a hot dusty room that seemed to be made for unwelcome guests. We felt the tension and I thought I'd start by telling their CEO that we would of course welcome cooperation with their side in the future and that we just need to carefully navigate this issue to expand the potential for future cooperation. Politically correct? Well, it still didn't work!

They somehow took this phrase and misunderstood it as interfering with their internal issues and that I am there to belittle their sovereignty over their production decisions. When I tried to avoid transforming the meeting into a fight, I told that we are only voicing our concern over the use of our creative developments and our months of effort spent in developing the components

without any return or even approval.

They also didn't like the use of the word approval in the sentence, noting that information is free for all and they only borrowed some general information from our team and didn't copy the whole product. The meeting escalated into a loud argument and when I reach the part where I had to waive the legal option at them.

I went back to office and decided to start pursuing the legal option. The legal and engineering departments had already prepared a strong legal suit to present to the responsible court and I couldn't had come at a better time.

I interviewed the suspects and helped quality team close the investigation. The result was zeroing in on four team members who did in-fact conspire to sell the company secrets.

What happened in the next slow painful months was a shameful display if disregard to the law and to commonsense. We required an immediate stop to the sale of the copied component to stop our losses while the case is being studied by the court. However, the court ruled that because we are an international company filing a suit against a local company, and for the sake of the national economy, the sale of the component will be continuing while the case is studied.

In any-case, for seven months, the case was studied and was closed only a whole month after production was stopped and the product updated. The court ruled that the product was only similar but not exactly copied and that there is no real damage to our side. I know you expected a happy ending but this is real life and it's not fair.

Maybe I made a mistake when I took a long time to contact the authorities or maybe the technical report that my engineering department was not strong enough or maybe the legal department didn't make a strong argument. Anyway, the important part is that we learned our lesson from this experience.

We took heavy losses in this project but we learned that whatever you do to seal your pipes, there will always be leaks that need to be found before it's too late. I now hold a regular security screening to make sure that such leaks are found before real damage is done and to try to catch them. The Spies.

Please send your comments and questions to Moe via moghuree@gmail.com



In this new series, Moe "The Profit Hunter" provides a real, raw, unedited guide for business and technology managers and entrepreneurs working in emerging markets and rising economies.



Stefan Thumiger, General Manager of Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside

A New Exciting Experience under the Banyan Tree

By Paula Taylor

悦榕庄走进大都市

熟悉悦榕庄品牌的人都知道，这是一个在世外桃源开度假村的品牌。但是最近几年，悦榕庄逐渐向曼谷、首尔这样的大城市扩张。其实这是悦榕庄品牌最新推出的“城市度假村”概念。即便你是一个商务客人，你也需要放松身心，享受周到的服务。而这正是悦榕庄想要提供给你的。天津很幸运地成为悦榕庄在中国大陆建立的首个“城市度假村”。

It was surprising to hear that Banyan Tree Hotels & Resort would open a Hotel in the heart of the city of Tianjin. Until now Banyan Tree was synonymous with Resorts in idyllic getaway locations like Lijiang, Phuket, Maldives and Seychelles but has in recent years opened properties in cities like Seoul, Macao, Shanghai and now on the banks of the Hai He in Tianjin. In our meeting with Stefan Thumiger, General Manager of Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside, we learned that it is actually a new development strategy of Banyan Tree Hotels & Resort featuring the new Urban Resort Concept. Stefan Thumiger has worked in Banyan Tree for over 5 years in various locations and has opened for the group the Hotels in Seoul and now here in Tianjin. In an

interview he gave us some insights and details on the newest addition to the Banyan Tree Collection.

Jin: Tianjin has many high class hotels and they are all fighting for a share in a limited market for the benefit of our readers, please explain why Banyan Tree has moved away from the concept of a resort in an area of outstanding beauty and opted for an inner city location in Tianjin.

ST: With Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts growing as an international chain we decided not only to focus on resort locations but also to establish a presence in cities with an Urban Resort Concept. Even though the surrounding might not be as idyllic as a resort we feel that nothing stops us from bringing the renowned Banyan Tree Resort Service Delivery to a city property creating the relaxed feel of a resort. What makes a resort so special is that as a guest we are there obviously on vacation and can take it easy with no pressure. Our Urban Resort creates a life style environment allowing you to just be, whatever the reason for your visit is. If you are on business, hold a meeting, have something to celebrate or simply look to get away from the



The Grill

hustles and bustles of life, we can provide a little bit of a vacation feel. We will help you to carve out these precious moments in your busy schedule where you can just be and recharge your batteries. You are correct by saying that there is a large number of luxury Hotels competing in the Tianjin market with many more coming. For this reason we do want to create a different style of hotel, something outside of the Box adding to the destination of Tianjin. In short, everything we do is under the umbrella of a relaxed, luxury service delivery, the resort style which we are famous for.

Jin: Your choice of Tianjin as your latest



Signature Banyan Tree Spa

venture is also a shrewd move, as Tianjin is fast gaining a reputation as an international city and The Banyan Tree hopefully will persuade more people to come here and sample the high quality experiences that Tianjin can now offer.

ST: I feel very strongly that Tianjin has an untapped potential as a “G-getaway Place” for Beijingers. Whilst corporate guests will be an important part of the business I do believe that the future of Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside will be more as a leisure and lifestyle Hotel. Obviously our renowned and award-winning Banyan Tree Spa will play an important role in this. I feel that our location is the nicest on the Hai He, being right opposite of the bustling Ancient Culture Street, within minutes walking distance from the fantastic Italian Street. At the same time the location is quiet and serene with lots of greenery right on the river, inviting for a stroll along the shore. The closeness to the Tianjin East Train Station is perfect for guests from Beijing – literally from the moment the train leaves Beijing South Station you can be relaxing in our lobby 45 minutes later. Being on the other side of the river also helps with easier access to Tianjin airport.

Jin: No doubt the Tianjinense that use your hotel will experience new things, how do you plan to tempt guests to use your facilities?

ST: We are having a large variety of attractive discounts schemes and opening packages to tempt Tianjinense in to our Hotel. New to Tianjin will be our renowned and award-winning Spa, which is actually the first one in Northern China. With our low tech - high impact techniques we are not only providing spa treatments but create unique experiences. All our highly qualified therapists have been trained especially for 3 months in our own accredited spa academy. Not to forget is our unique shop, the Banyan Tree Gallery, the perfect place for gifts and treats for you. Based on a concept of “retailing with a difference”, the Gallery’s ethos is based on giving back to communities centering around the core values,

Sustaining Village Development in remote areas, Conserving Natural & Cultural Resources and Showcasing Ethnic Crafts & Culture.

Jin: Tianjinense love food and more and more people are concerned about their health, so you have already hit on a key attraction for them.

In all our restaurants we are focusing on basics: Best ingredients, freshest preparation, natural flavours and value for money. We have rented a block of land and are planting some of our own vegetables – we really want to go the extra mile to ensure we have healthy and fresh products every day. We want to make sure that food is always prepared in simple ways, bringing out natural flavours – for instance in our grill restaurant we use a variety of different salts, peppers, and olive oils to achieve this.

Jin: Can you please describe in detail what kind of experience a guest can expect at your hotel?

ST: It is about a relaxed life style, a place you can be, a place you can take respite, carve time out for yourself. A place to rejuvenate and to have a little bit of a holiday being it for a few hours whilst doing business or for a few days



Riverside Suite

with your loved ones. When you drive up and enter our hotel you will feel the difference. We do not have a traditional lobby with a formal desk. It resembles more a living room. Our Banyan Tree Hosts are there to take care of all your needs – they are your one stop shop, to assist you and customize your stay. Whilst we check-in guests in our lobby Lounge we provide a specially selected welcome tea and a relaxing shoulder massage to get you into the right mood.

Jin: Everyone that comes to forms their own impressions and they are all different, we would be interested to hear yours.

ST: This is my first time in China and I was lucky enough to travel a lot to different places. I am absolutely fascinated by the fast growth, the depth and variety of the culture. What fascinates me in Tianjin is that I can have a glimpse of the old and new China together and this is something I treasure very much. I find that Tianjin is very unique, from its history to its habitants creating this special relaxed and laid back atmosphere. This combined with the beautiful Hai He, the architectural variety which is well maintained puts Tianjin into the right place to become a getaway destination.

Jin: How do you plan to customise your hotel in order to take into account local tastes?

ST: The fundamentals of a good hotel are to continuously improve, adjust to changes in trends, anticipate the needs of guests and exceed expectations. Localization is very important. It is about understanding the market and at the same time the local culture, this is the key to success. Moreover it is about the individuality of the guest, his needs and expectations. Here the key is not to standardize, but to personalise the service delivery. It is crucial for the team to be flexible, have personal initiative and be empowered to make decisions. This is why we have combined all the many different functions you find in a traditional Hotel Lobby into one, the Banyan Tree Host. These selected associates are at the centre in creating experiences in our Urban Resort.



EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

Communication Workshop - Impactful Communication using the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI®) 20th May, 2013

MBTI® is one of the world's most widely used personality indicators with more than 2 million people discovering their personality type each year. MBTI® is used by many Fortune 500 businesses and in the world's leading business schools as a foundation in leadership development.

In today's fast paced and volatile business environment, impactful and inspiring communication is essential to the success of any manager or leader. Impactful communication leads to more engaged and productive teams and more satisfied clients and senior stakeholders.

In cooperation with German Chamber, the European Chamber Tianjin Chapter organized this fun and interactive seminar by inviting Robin Ball (MDS Founder and Head of Learning and Development) and Joanna Thumiger (MDS Senior Consultant). More than 30 top executives and line managers who are interested in improving their communication skills for business or private purposes participated this workshop.



Business Confidence Survey 2013 Available to Read on Your Tablet



The Business Confidence Survey 2013 has launched. Download the report from the Chamber website (www.eurochamber.com.cn) to see what Chamber members told us about their business performance and experiences in the last year. This year we provide digital copies of the BCS in both pdf and ebook formats suitable for your iPad,

Kindle or other favourite tablet reader. As always it is available in both English and Chinese versions.

Tougher business conditions, both globally and in China, have led to diminished financial performance for European companies in China in recent years. The relatively poor financial results are further exacerbated by the regulatory environment. However, despite many of the lowest business confidence results since the onset of the global economic downturn, China continues to be a priority in global strategies and a mainstay for global revenue generation.

Human Capital Conference in Beijing



On 7th June, The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China is delighted to be holding its second annual Human Capital Conference at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beijing. The conference entitled 'Unlocking Innovation' aims to provide both European and Chinese human capital experts and business leaders an unparalleled opportunity to obtain insights from one another on how to tap innovation into China HR

activities this year and beyond. The one day conference includes a keynote and a CEO Panel in the morning followed by four interactive workshop discussions, an Innovation Expert Panel and closing keynote at the end of the day. There are over 14 distinguished speakers and 120 guests joining innovation dialogues and raising recommendations to unlock the innovator potential of local teams and leaders. The Keynote Speech is delivered by Davide Cucino, President, European Union Chamber of Commerce and Vincent Rondia, Academic Director, Raffles Design Institute Beijing respectively.

Past Events

Latest Information on Visa and Residence Permits Policy

Thursday, May 23, St. Regis Tianjin



On May 23rd, AmCham China, Tianjin, in conjunction with the Exit-Entry Administration Tianjin Municipal Public Security Bureau held a briefing on the current exit and entry visa regulations and policies for AmCham member companies in Tianjin. Xu Xinhao and Tian Xiaojian, director and vice director of the Exit-Entry Administration Bureau, shared up-to-date policies on visa and resident permit issues. They also discussed how the Exit-Entry Administration Bureau could provide information and service to foreigners living in Tianjin. Lots of questions from member companies were answered during the Q & A Session.

ICT Forum Tianjin Kickoff Lunch: Top Technology Issues for Companies in China

May 29, Tangla Hotel Tianjin

AmCham China Tianjin launched its ICT Forum on May 29th at the Tangla Hotel Tianjin.

A panel of IT experts and corporate representatives discussed technology-related issues in China, such as the shortage of qualified technologists, issues with Internet access and online security.

The objective of this forum is to organize meetings with Chinese, US government, and regulatory officials, provide information, education, and updates on information technology and telecommunications industry-related developments, and encourage networking and business development among members of the forum. This will also be a forum and a resource for technology leaders with the goal to improve productivity for member companies in the area of technology.

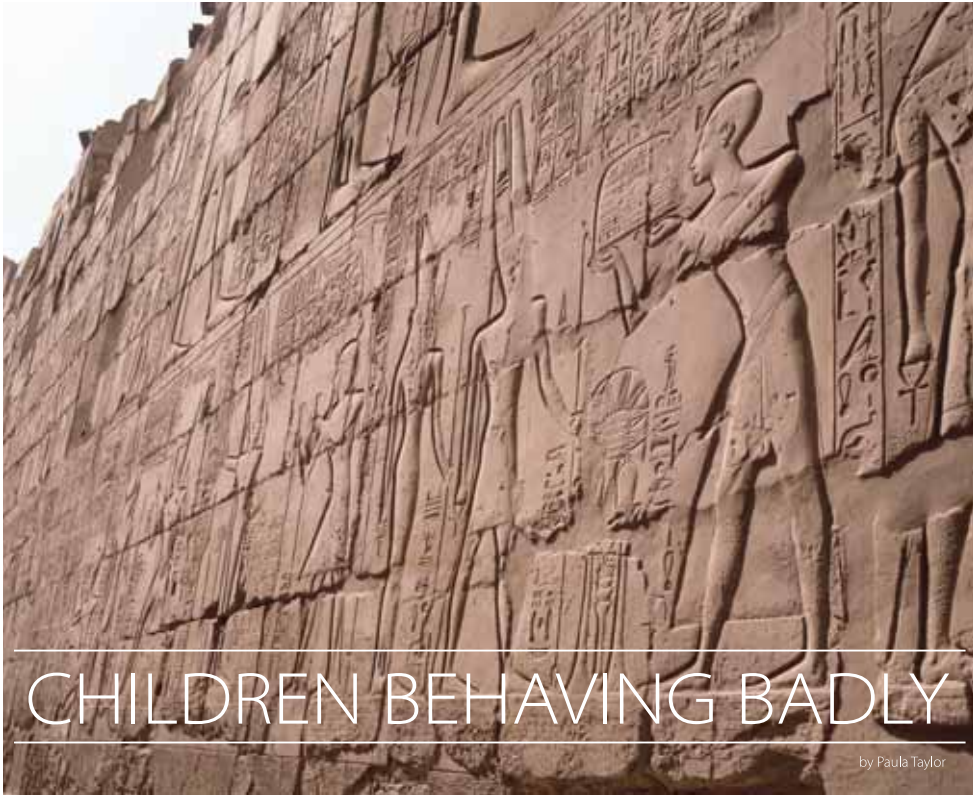


Moderator:

Nicholas Tea, national IT director, Leadership Development International Inc.

Speakers:

Tom Chen, director software system development, Inventec Electronics (Tianjin) Co., Ltd
Lin Gao, sr. director, Global Gov't Affairs, Motorola Solutions
Jim Hong, vice president, Good Technology
Lee Shelton, QA manager, TeleCommunication Systems



“到此一游”何时休？

近几年，随着生活水平逐步提高，越来越多的中国人选择在假期出国旅行作为一种休闲方式。一时间，中国游客遍布全世界，强劲购买力使得各地旅游经济愈发繁荣的同时，一些中国游客的不文明行为也着实令人担忧。

“在埃及最难过的一刻，无地自容。”近期，网友的一条微博迅速引发热议，他在埃及卢克索神庙的浮雕上看到有人用中文刻上“丁锦昊到此一游”，为国人轻易毁坏千年文物的行为感到震惊和羞愧。许多网友对此均表示气愤。曾带队赴埃及多次的资深导游表示，毁坏和私藏文物出境已经触犯了当地法律，一旦被发现且情节严重，可能要坐牢。

网友根据种种线索，将涂鸦风波的当事人锁定为南京的一个孩子。在声声谴责中，孩子父母主动向媒体表示，孩子已意识到了错误，恳请大家给个机会。诚然，对于一个尚未成年的孩子，过多指责是其不可承受之重，社会和媒体应该给予更多的包容与理解。要知道，孩子的成长和教育，是由家庭、学校和社会共同完成的。

当孩子还是一张白纸，还在以好奇的眼光去打量这个世界的时候，外界给予什么样的教育与引导，才是其成长的决定性因素。就此事来说，孩子无辜，大人却难逃其咎。我们真的应该扪心自问：我们是否正确地引导孩子？我们到底给予了孩子一种什么样的教育？我们是否能够以身作则地正向孩子做示范？孩子的行为是成人社会的一面镜子。如果说它一方面反映出中国当下教育的盲区，另一方面也折射出成人陋习对孩子的巨大影响。

Many people at tourist sites complain about Chinese tourists pushing in and not queuing up, dropping litter etc. However these minor indiscretions pale into significance when we look at some rather more serious bad behaviour, like the idiot who wrote his name on a 3500 year old Egyptian relic. The good news is that it was other Chinese tourists that took action, they took photos of the graffiti and uploaded it on the web. There soon followed widespread fury and indignation and a hunt began to find the culprit. He was identified as a 15 year old schoolboy from Nanjing.

One tourist said that when he saw the graffiti he was ashamed and that it was the worst moment of his trip. He and others tried to erase the marks but failed. He also said that there were 14 people in his party and they were all struck silent due to shame. It is fair to say that Chinese people were united in their disgust and the boy's family were forced to issue a grovelling apology. In fact the Chinese government are so keen to

make sure that Chinese tourists do not disgrace China's reputation abroad, that in April a new law was passed warning tourists against uncivilised behaviour. Mr Wang Yang, a vice Prime Minister recently said that the behaviour of some Chinese tourists abroad is uncivilised, leading to criticism which is resulting in China's image abroad being harmed. Amongst the bad behaviour he listed was spitting (yes that has been exported) and dropping litter. Here is a direct quote from the People's Daily, Mr Wang said: 'Improving the civilised quality of the citizens and building a good image of Chinese tourists are the obligations of governments at all levels and relevant agencies and companies.' He said Chinese authorities should 'guide tourists to conscientiously abide by public order and social ethics, respect local religious beliefs and customs, mind their speech and behaviour...and protect the environment'.

The interesting thing is that Chinese people were unanimous in their condemnation of the boy's parents, they said he had not been educated properly so in effect it was the fault of his parents. Meanwhile his parents issued a grovelling apology by writing in the Modern Express newspaper 'We apologize to Egyptian authorities and Chinese people who are upset by this incident. He has realized he made a mistake, and we beg your pardon, please give him a chance to correct his act'. OK, but it is hard to see quite how he will correct his act. As this kid's parents are wealthy enough to be able to send him off travelling abroad at such a young age, no doubt he has been thoroughly spoiled with everything he wanted given to him. Whilst many will no doubt think this is just teenage anti-social behaviour, there is nevertheless a growing problem here with children being overindulged. In the future the consequences of spoiling these children will come back with a vengeance. What I don't understand is that almost everyone I know confirms that they spoil their children and that they know they will regret it, but they say they can't change and everyone else spoils their children too.

When I tell people how my parents believed in tough love and that there were always consequences for bad behaviour in the form of severe physical punishment, they visibly shudder at the thought. Most Chinese parents would not contemplate beating their child or even punishing them. The idea of saying no to them is just not part of their ethos. Like me you have probably seen

appalling behaviour that goes unchecked or seemingly unnoticed by parents and grandparents alike.

One lady told me that when she chastises her child, her own parents or parents-in-law criticise her. These children do not know the meaning of restraint and self-control, they have been led to believe that the universe revolves around them and woe-be-tide anyone who begs to differ. When teaching English I have had teenage kids burst into tears because I suggested that they didn't copy from other people and instead did their own work.

A little light at the end of the tunnel is that it was Chinese people who highlighted the desecrated Egyptian relic after all, and it was them who launched a campaign to find the culprit. Imagine in a country of this size with so many people having similar names they still painstakingly tracked the boy down.

In England at a very expensive private school, an 18 year old Chinese student, Mingheng He, reacted with fury when he asked another student to loan him a bottle of soy sauce and the other student refused. After seething for two hours Mingheng went to find the second student and stabbed him twice, causing severe injuries. He was jailed for four years. The reporters referred to him as a thug, and many readers commented that this is a result of the one child policy and people treating their children like little emperors. Foreigners living in China also commented and said that Chinese children are not able to tolerate being refused anything, they are not used to it. Usually I would be in agreement with the punishment that this boy received, but I started delving a little deeper and have changed my attitude a

little.

Other students at the school said that there are lots of rich kids from Hong Kong and they bullied Mingheng and isolated him from the minute he arrived. He was only one of two Mandarin speakers and when the other one left he was completely alone. Adding to his distress, when he came back to China for a holiday he found out his mother had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Other non-Chinese students said he was kind and generous and a great roommate. They were adamant that the Hong Kong students were prejudiced against him. The Judge at the trial was told that he had no family support in England. So this kid was sent away from home and family to a country where he had no friends, and then when he arrived his life was made a misery by the very people with whom he should have bonded. No doubt his family did not take into consideration the fact that he may not have wanted to go in the first place, and that it was probably his parents' dream for him to be educated abroad. Maybe some of the blame for this tragedy needs to be laid at his parents' door.

Chinese parents love their children too much, they help them too much, they give them too much. Children need training and boundaries almost as much as they need love. If their parents continue to treat them like emperors, those children will go on to have extremely difficult lives. The world is a cold and hard place and once they find out that it is not the same as their home, where the word no does not exist and that they are expected to be responsible for their actions, they will find that trouble follows them, no doubt they will not thank their parents then but rather blame them.





Take western-style architecture back home

by Yang Xue Fei

把洋楼“搬回家”

望海楼教堂、袁氏宅邸、曹禺故居、西开教堂……10年间，这些浸染历史气息的津城特色建筑——在沈军的手中微缩重现。家住河北区铁东路街紫华里社区的沈军，利用不起眼的木材边角废料，制作出三十多个精美的木制小洋楼建筑模型。精致的房檐、细密的窗格、通透的雕窗，连小小的门窗都能开自如。现在，每天整理和欣赏一遍自己的作品，已经成为沈军的生活习惯，同时也满足了他年少时把洋楼“搬回家”的愿望。

沈军的父亲曾在美术出版社工作，家庭的熏陶使他从小就对绘画和手工制作有浓厚的兴趣。2002年退休后，赋闲在家的沈军偶然看见邻居装修后剩下的废弃木材，便产生了灵感——何不利用这些制作一个洋楼模型？想好后，沈军着手准备，选定的第一个模型是袁氏宅邸。沈军介绍，“制作的难点就是定好模型的比例，如果这一点做不好，模型就会走样。”而测量比例他有自己的绝活儿，就是在建筑的四周走一遍，用步数记录距离长短。在制作中，除了废木材，甚至连家中的筷子和牙签都会派上用场，经过近三个月的精心打造，一个精致的袁氏宅邸终于呈现出来。

从此，沈军彻底对洋楼模型着了迷，无论是艳阳高照还是天寒地冻，只要想做模型，他就背着画板到现场，经常一画就是两三个小时。沈军的老伴儿宋秀华说，“有时我们两口子遛弯时，看他眼睛直盯着一个小洋楼，我就知道他又要做模型了。”做模型，备用的木材很重要，沈军和老伴儿平常看到丢弃的废旧木头就如获至宝地捡回来，甚至还会特意去新建的小区溜两圈，看到装修后弃用的木材就带回家。

“现在咱天津的城市面貌是一天天美起来了，我制作的灵感也越来越多。我想办个展览，让更多的人了解咱天津。”虽然已经做了三十多个模型，但沈军依然不满足，“我年龄越来越大了，体力和精力大不如前，但也会尽自己努力多做一些出来，让社区和周边的邻居都近距离体会咱家乡的发展变化！”

Mr. Shen Jun lives in Hebei District of Tianjin and his hobby is making wooden architecture miniatures of local historical buildings, including churches and ancient celebrities' houses in Tianjin. He has more than 30 miniature models and when you look at the exquisite roofs, precisely cut windows and doors that even can be moved freely, you cannot tell that all of them are made of disused wood. It was Shen's dream to take those exotic buildings back home when he was young.

Shen's father used to work in an Arts Publication Company, so the arts atmosphere at home was quite inspiring throughout his childhood. Ever since then, Shen developed a strong interest in painting and craft skills. After his retirement in 2002, he found some disused wood materials left by his neighbour after they had decorated their apartment. Then he was suddenly struck with a good idea. "Why not use these materials to make some miniature architecture models?" he asked himself. However, the first challenge is the scale ratio. If the ratio is wrong, the miniature will look awkward, hence getting the measurements right was quite difficult in the beginning. He had to go to the scene, measure the real scale of building by walking around, and remember how many steps he walked. Once he got home, he immediately

started to calculate the distance and scale. By repeating this procedure so many times, Shen's first miniature was done and it was the Residence of the Yuan Family at Hebei District.

Shen is obsessed with building models thoroughly. No matter what the weather conditions, hot or cold, as long as he wants to make new models, he will carry his palette to the scene and spend two or three hours drawing the building. He said: "Along with the booming economy the city construction of Tianjin is becoming increasingly more beautiful so my inspiration and design resources are more than before. In the future, I am planning to hold an exhibition for my collection and designs to let more people know about Tianjin and Tianjin history. Although I am getting old and my physical strength is weak too, I will still try my best to make iconic architecture as much as I can."



Mr. Shen Jun with his wooden architecture miniatures



Hopeland International Kindergarten Graduation Season 华兰国际幼稚园毕业季

The graduation season has approached. During the graduation ceremony at Hopeland, the video about kindergarten life and the friendship between teachers and children was playing on the big screen. After that, the chairman of Hopeland International Kindergarten, Madam Wang Feng Lan, awarded the graduation diploma and group photo with crystal frame to every child. All the children were very excited to yell: "We have graduated!" In the end, there was a wonderful graduation performance. A bright future is coming to them as well!



七月，盛夏。银杏的叶子还是青翠的颜色，摆在眼前的却是看得见的离别。华兰国际第九届幼儿毕业典礼正式拉开帷幕：视频“我们一起走过的日子”，把大家的思绪一起拉回从前，孩子们在幼稚园生活的点点滴滴及浓浓的师生情谊，深深地打动了在场的每一个人。紧接着孩子们迎来了他们人生中第一个重要的时刻，华兰国际幼稚园董事长王凤兰女士亲自为每位毕业生颁发毕业证书及水晶照。孩子们激动万分，齐声高喊：“我们毕业啦！”在园长真诚的祝福和爱的寄语后，全体毕业生为大家呈现了一场异彩纷呈的毕业汇演！亲爱的孩子们，虽然你们明天就要离开，太多的风中欢笑已定格成美好的风中回忆，但是我们谁都不要哭，也不为谁等待，因为你们的未来充满了精彩！



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ARE ALL IMPORTS GOOD?

By Paula Taylor

外来文化都是好的吗？

西方国家向中国输出过很多文化、技术和产品，但并不是所有这些都是精粹，比如垃圾食品。每天早上，我都会看到一些孩子在西式快餐店里吃早餐。我听说，天津的传统早点是豆浆和油条。虽然我不知道油条算不算健康食品，但我知道那些汉堡和果汁绝对是百分之百的垃圾食品。看见他们以这些开始一天的学习生活令我很是担心。

很多中国人都认为现在年轻人对感情和婚姻态度轻率，他们把一部分原因归结于受到外来影视剧的影响。很多中国朋友都和我谈到《欲望都市》这部美剧，也认定外国人就是像片子里的人那样开放。这样的美剧在中国很流行，也难怪年轻人会受影响。

我们以前还讨论过奢华包装的问题。在中国，以前人们不像现在这么重视包装。即使是知名品牌或老字号使用的也是朴素大方的包装。改革开放以后，人们看到一些进口商品的包装异常精美，于是也开始纷纷效仿。在“面子效应”的作用下，厂商把功夫全都放在了包装上，发挥各种奇思妙想。

过多的一次性资源消费，比如一次性餐具、尿不湿，这些都对环境造成很大破坏。还有现在电脑和智能手机的普及让人们变得提笔忘字。中国的书法艺术源远流长，但现在的年轻人已经很少动笔写字了，如果这个文化慢慢消亡了那将是多么可悲的事情啊！

The West has given a lot to China but not all the imports have been good, take junk food for instance. On one of my early morning jaunts I was struck by the amount of people at 6.30 in the morning taking their children to fast food restaurants for their breakfast. One young boy was clutching a large cup of a bilious looking orange fluid, that I am sure had no connection with oranges at all. The custom here in Tianjin is to buy breakfast outside, with the most popular breakfast dish being yóutiáo, which is a long fried dough stick, a kind of doughnut, and soy milk. Whilst I never eat yóutiáo, their Chinese name literally means oil stick, and I cannot understand why something so unhealthy is so popular, I am even more alarmed at the trend to stuff children full of

junk food and e numbers, especially as it is the first meal of the day.

My friends explained to me that people are very busy here and children have to start school a lot earlier than they do in the West, so parents really have no time to prepare breakfast in the morning, and the children really do not have the time to eat it at home, therefore buying it outside is a necessary task, and the children eat it on the move. OK I can understand, but why go for such unhealthy options? This is one thing imported from the West that is damaging to Chinese people. Another friend pointed out that now the fast food restaurants have healthy options for breakfast, such as zhou, a porridge made from rice. I pointed out to her that I had not seen any children with zhou, but I had seen them



all with burgers and fizzy drinks. She then concurred that the children prefer to eat junk food. Of course, all children do, I love junk food, but I am not kidding myself that it is good for me and I rarely touch fizzy drinks, let alone drink one for breakfast. As Chinese people are unable to say no to their children, every day many of them have the worst possible start to their day. Experts readily testify to the effect of chemicals and e numbers on the behaviour of children.

What about other things that have been imported from the West? Lots blame the increasing lack of morality amongst young people here on imported TV shows that promote immorality. Whatever you think of this, it is true to say that Chinese people think we are very "free" - their opinion of us is based

on the shows that they watch. I have had people say to me, "Westerners are very open minded", when I ask them what they mean, they say "I watch Sex and the City so I know you people are very open minded". I have never ever watched this show, but as the title is self-explanatory, and if my surmising is correct that this show portrays us as being liberal and having sex with strangers all over the place, then it is no surprise that Chinese people are being influenced.

Once upon a time premarital sex was frowned on here, but now one night stands are common and girls live with their boyfriends with no repercussions from family or friends. Older Chinese people believe this is a Western influence that has crept in. Another problem is the attitude to marriage and divorce. Divorce rates are skyrocketing here and when you look at the behaviour of

some stars, who appear to lead glamorous lives but who marry and divorce with relative ease, no wonder people think that is no problem. One case in point is Kate Winslet. She is very famous here, she has been married three times and is now pregnant with her third child. This will mean three different fathers for three children. If a Chinese star had this kind of record they would not be famous for very long, but as Kate is a Westerner, it is accepted that it is just normal behaviour for us.

You probably know that here gifts are valued for their elaborate packaging, rather than the contents. This is something that is also said to come from the West. Before goods were plainly wrapped, even if they were a big name brand. However once people saw that imported goods were beautifully packaged, people were amazed

and wanted to also use this kind of packaging. Now this custom is really over the top, as the boxes frequently cost more than the goods inside. Mianzi is everything so the packaging will clearly let a person know his status in the gift giver's eyes. People buy moon cake gift boxes that cost hundreds of rmb, but the contents are still just cakes and in no way justify the high price. I went into a shop once to look at a pretty glass jar. The shop owner said "You should buy this for your friends because the box is really special. For you Chinese speakers the Chinese she used was "这个盒子特别好玩儿". I remember thinking at the time that it was a peculiar thing to say. There is no way that I could tell a friend "I bought you this present because of the box". So although the beautiful packaging of goods may have started in the West I don't think it is fair to blame us for how it has become twisted. Nevertheless Chinese people say they got the idea from us.

We live in a disposable society and we throw too much away. Before the economic situation was not so good here so people didn't throw things away without good reason. Forests are now being chopped down to provide disposable wooden chopsticks. Whilst the West cannot be blamed for every bad thing here, maybe we do have some responsibility for certain things. It is as if we threw the ball that is the throw away mentality, and the Chinese caught it and ran away with it. Now excess packaging and the use of too much plastic is a problem for most societies. I used to tut tut at the bare bottomed children going to the toilet in the street. I still tut-tut but this time it is because they are doing in full view of everyone. The landfill problem created by disposable nappies is a far more serious problem than the one caused by the children not wearing them.

Progress is a two edged sword, with the wide availability and accessibility of computers, smartphones, the internet etc. Chinese children are now in danger of not being able to write characters, so used to just tapping them out on a keyboard or phone pad are they. No wonder in the parks it is old men who are writing calligraphy and not young people - young people are simply unable to. Thousands of years of calligraphy culture may well be a thing of the past at this rate.

The West has given a lot to China - it has also taken a lot away.

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TIANJIN WAKES UP

by Paula Taylor



活力城市 多彩晨练

初夏的天津，日照时间开始越来越长。大概清晨5点钟左右，天空就已经微微发亮。此时的你肯定也和我一样，通常还在酣睡。但是一部分天津市民却早已出发，在各个公园、广场等处集合准备晨练。这不仅仅是当地人的一种生活习惯，也是享受悠闲生活的一种方式。如今，天津这座城市的基础设施建设逐步完善，顺应了市民对美好生活的向往和追求。在广场上、公园中，越来越多的人加入到晨练的队伍中，为城市增添了激情与活力。

据了解，目前天津市的晨练地点分布在市区的公园、广场和一些环境幽静的小区里。市民晨练的种类也有很多，太极拳、健身操、抖空竹、放风筝、打腰鼓等。生命在于运动，运动健身不仅能够增强抵抗力、免受疾病困扰，更能陶冶情操、愉悦心情。不论处于哪个年龄段，哪个国籍，都希望大家可以行动起来，积极参与到运动健身的行列中来。特别是在天津生活的外国人，加入到晨练的队伍绝对是体验当地文化、融入当地生活、结交当地朋友的好机会。

What were you doing at 5.00 a.m. this morning, or any morning? I expect most of you were still engaged in blissful inactivity, still snoozing away happily. That is usually my condition, but I decided to have a change to my routine in order to bring you a first-hand report about what Tianjiners are doing early in the morning, hence when a friend suggested we go to shui shang park early to “exercise” I

readily agreed. I dragged my sorry carcass out of bed at 5.30 and had a nice cold shower, that woke me up nicely and then I stumbled down the road and staggered into the park at 6.30. On the way several buses roared past me, the passengers inside already nodding off although the day had just started.

When I entered the park I was greeted by an amazing sight, it was literally bursting with people engaged in various activities. If you

like people watching, I heartily recommend you take an early morning stroll around any of the parks. I watched several groups of people. One group were practising a martial art with lethal looking swords. They were all dressed in turquoise traditional Chinese outfits, and with the sun shining on the water which was behind them, they made for a stunning scene, straight out of a kung fu movie. I proceeded with caution, I assume they were all experts, but I didn't want to take any chances. If a sword flew out of a novice's hand.....

As I rounded a bend I was presented with a dance group who were shaking their stuff. There was a lone man dancing with them who was attempting to keep up, but he looked quite sheepish. The only other male there was left to guard their bags. Dancing is one of the main activities in the park and there are many different “gangs” of women, each group has a leader and different music. The aforementioned group really make an effort and all wear the same clothes so they are quite striking, although they are

completely out of step with the music. I am going to make a pejorative statement and say that many Asian people have no natural rhythm. This is based on what I see of the dancing ladies and my own failed attempts to teach my Japanese, Korean and Chinese friends Salsa. They tell me that they can follow the steps but not feel the rhythm, hence their dancing is robotic. Something that further complicates things for the dancing ladies is that they are using salsa or other western music, but rigidly stick to synchronised steps more suited to Chinese traditional music. Nevertheless their enthusiasm is great. I got talking to a lady who was watching one group dancing and she said “I come here every morning at 5.00 a.m.” 5.00 a.m.! And I thought I was early.

I want to tell you about some of the interesting people I have met through my early morning perambulations. I really like talking to the locals, I can get a keen understanding of what life is like for most of them. Here are a couple of experiences that I had recently. I started watching a group of old ladies dancing, and one caught my eye. She was in her 70s and was wearing a brightly coloured top that was covered in sequined flowers, really glamorous. Another lady was watching from the side-lines and told me that the well-dressed lady was her mother who had terminal cancer, so her daughter brought her out every day to dance and let her enjoy herself. Her daughter told me “She doesn't know she has cancer, she doesn't know she is dying. The doctors told us she only had six months to live, but she has already lasted for one year. They say it is a miracle”. Why she confided in a complete stranger and a foreigner at that, I don't know, but I am glad she did. I had a lump in my throat as I watched the old lady delightedly performing all the moves like an expert. Who knows how much longer she has left, but at least getting out every day and dancing with her friends is bringing her happiness.

I also made another new friend when her dog came up to me and introduced himself. He is a British Bulldog and no doubt recognised a fellow Bit. His owner told me that she was very worried as his hair was falling out and he had lumps all over him. It only happened in spring and summer and she did not know what to do. She had already seen many vets but had been unable to find a resolution. She was worried that her dog was sick because of something that she was doing. I told her that her dog was a little too



Practising Martial Art

chubby, many owners here overfeed their dogs which causes them myriad health problems. I said I would check some information on this breed of dog and get back to her. I found out the cause of the dog's problems and went back to tell her. She was so relieved that it wasn't her fault that she almost cried. Many of the animals here have problems simply because their owners do not know the correct way to deal with them, but they really do love them.

There are various hobbies that people carry out in the parks and a fascinating one is using a giant brush to write characters on the

ground using water instead of ink. Of course the sun quickly evaporates the water, but it is still interesting to try to work out what wise saying they want to impart to us before this happens. I like to test out my Chinese characters, but it is not always easy as they use traditional ones. One particularly gifted gentleman is ambidextrous and uses one hand to write Chinese characters, and the other hand to write English simultaneously.

Another benefit is that now it is so hot, it is difficult for me to motivate myself, therefore the early morning is extremely comfortable for me. If you are also suffering from the heat but want to get out and about, then why not think about the early morning life. At 5.00 a.m. Tianjin is already awake and alive with activity. To date I have still only managed to leave my house at 6.00 a.m. - so far a 5.00 a.m. arrival at the park has eluded me but I haven't given up. By 8.30 a.m. just about everyone has ceased their activities and already gone home. Incidentally the earliest bus from the terminal near to my home leaves at 5.00 a.m.

I am learning so much about Chinese people, and the more I get to know them, the more I love them. My advice is if you really want to understand Chinese people and make real friends with them, don't just stick to the people you know through your work, get out and about, especially early in the morning and you will soon find yourself having new experiences, learning new things and making new friends.



Good Morning Tianjin



Shenzhen: The Fastest Growing City in China

by Kyle Knutson

快速发展中的城市：深圳

中国著名导演张艺谋在多年前曾经执导过的一部电影叫“幸福时光”。影片的大部分取景地在深圳，这让我对这座城市产生了初步印象。作为中国的重要国际门户，深圳是世界上发展最快、中国经济最发达城市之一。这座新兴发展的城市，位于珠江三角洲东岸，与香港仅一江之隔，特殊的地理位置也成就了其经济建设的飞速发展。深圳的人文景点不算太多，其主要景点是近代的一些主题公园，主要有明斯克航母世界、欢乐谷、锦绣中华、海洋世界、大小梅沙等。其中，“世界之窗”可以让你感受世界历史、文化、自然之美，景区分为亚洲区、欧洲区、大洋洲区、非洲区、美洲区、世界广场、世界雕塑园、国际街及现代科技娱乐区九大景区，内含118个著名微缩景点。我在这里一边漫步在古罗马竞技场边，一边眺望远处的埃菲尔铁塔，那种感觉很奇妙。

In Zhang Yimou's 2002 movie, "Happy Times", Little Wu Ying dreamed about her ambitions to go to Shenzhen to find a doctor to cure her blindness and reunite with her father. The trouble was that she worked at a massage parlor that didn't actually exist and eventually, the tips that she earned from her poor but well intentioned clients were nothing more than fake slips of paper. Still, that didn't stop her by the end of the movie.

This was the first time I heard of Shenzhen. The image I had of it was a bastion of hope for a better life. It's well worth it to see the movie and to visit the city, just next to

Hong Kong, right on the southern tip of Guangdong Province.

Prior to the beginnings of Prime Minister Deng Xiaoping's reign, Shenzhen was just a tiny fishing village, with a population less than 100,000. Outside of Guangdong Province, nobody would have ever known about this place or its "deep drains" as the literal Chinese to English translation implies. In ancient times Shenzhen had a series of deep rivers that zigzagged through the village to support its farms and livestock and was thus, given this name. Nowadays, you won't be able to lay eyes on these deep rivers, for in the past thirty

years, this nondescript hamlet has transformed itself into a city that's probably almost fifty times its size. Blanketed with mega skyscrapers, parks, museums, markets, businesses and its own Shenzhen Stock Exchange, any trace of its reliance on farming or its water drains are now merely lost archaeological relics. How did this happen?

Shenzhen gained widespread attention from the Communist Party due to the fact that Hong Kong was its next door neighbor. As newly appointed Deng Xiaoping and his administration were formulating new economic theories for China's reform, Shenzhen was planned to be the ultimate testing ground. With the dual help of Hong Kong and Mainland China government investment, Shenzhen was awarded the title of a Special Economic Zone. It grew and grew. Suddenly, everybody knew about Shenzhen. To keep up with the development, the Chinese government encouraged its citizens to move to Shenzhen. People followed and currently, Shenzhen is one of most wealthy cities in China, ranking with Guangzhou (the

capital of Guangdong Province), Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong.

After disembarking from one of the southbound buses from Guangzhou to Shenzhen (you can also take one of the very frequent and convenient high speed trains from the south railway station), the first thing I noticed while taking the subway was a lack of spoken Cantonese. In Guangzhou, most of its citizens were Cantonese speakers while Mandarin was in the minority (not by much). In Shenzhen, it felt like the opposite. Spoken Mandarin was everywhere from the hotels, restaurants and museums. This is because the overwhelming influx of Mandarin speaking migrants eventually outnumbered the local Cantonese speaking population. Even my students from Shenzhen who attended Nankai University only spoke Mandarin. Although to be fair, they said that they understood Cantonese, which is arguably a more tricky language to speak.

After checking into my hotel, I glanced over the list the theme parks that were famous in Shenzhen. Along with Shenzhen's prosperity, tourism had also developed. Still, a major problem had to be addressed in the 1980s and 1990s: crime. Despite the hopes and dreams of living a better life, some of the new inhabitants encountered difficulties, and as a result, reports of seedy neighborhoods became the norm in many travel books. Nowadays, almost all of this has been cleaned up by the government and Shenzhen is currently safe for tourism. Also note that all of the tourist sites described in greater detail in this article can all be reached by subway.

Looking back at the list, Shenzhen's theme parks are vast and diverse: a Sea Park/Beach Resort, the Chinese Folk Culture Village, Happy Valley, Splendid China, Minsk World (A military themed adventure park), a Safari Park, a Botanical Garden and the Window of the World. The most famous and unique park that I'd heard of was the Window of the World, a miniature themed model park of tourist sites from around the world. Splendid China, is essentially the same kind of park, except the miniatures are focused on the sites of China. I hopped on a subway bound for the Window to the World stop.

While looking at models might seem a little childish, it was actually an inspiring for there is a lot about the world that we haven't seen. I have lived and traveled in China for two years without leaving or going home. And after seeing the European and Southeast Asian miniature sections, I suddenly realized what little I knew and how expansive the



The Roman Coliseum

world is. Most of the reproductions of some of the most famous structures in the world were painstakingly recreated arch by arch and brick by brick. From the great pyramids in Egypt to the majestic Angkor Wat in Cambodia to the Il Duomo Cathedral in Italy, most of the models were about the width of a standard hotel room and the height of my waist. Others practically towered over the visitor. So, in a way, the miniatures were not quite as small as was lead to believe. In the center of it all was a half sized reproduction of the Eiffel Tower which you can climb or take an elevator. It's pleasant to wander around the well tended theme park, but make sure to catch the more lavish night show run by a professional Russian Dance Troupe to make your 160RMB ticket worth your every yuan.

Art is another popular trend in Shenzhen. Most of it is centered around the OTC Art Terminal in the Overseas Chinese Neighborhood. Independent galleries, clubs and shops are all open to curious visitors. The café and drinking scene is also thriving in the area. If you haven't had enough of the art (or the galleries happen to be closed), you can check out some additional smaller galleries outside Exit B at the Hua Qiao Cheng Subway Stop.

If you're looking for even more variety for your drinking experience in Shenzhen, classy restaurants can be found almost everywhere. But most are centrally located around the Citic City Plaza subway stop. Western food, Chinese food, you name it... they will have it. Cheap eats are around too but are harder to find in comparison to most other Chinese cities.

For the history buff, you can try the well put together Shenzhen Museum at the Shimin Zhongxin subway stop. Here, you can discover not only the history of Shenzhen but local Guangdong insights as well. The Dafeng fortress outside of Shenzhen, which was intended to protect China from the Opium Wars, was one place I had intended to go to but did not have a chance to explore. It can be reached by buses 360, 7 and 352.

Finally, the most popular activity in Shenzhen would have to be shopping. Hong Kongers flock to Shenzhen to buy cheap goods at the Luohu market just past the Hong Kong border and the Dafeng Village Market located way out in the far out northeastern district of Longgang. Clothes, watches, phones, electronics, food, and all other manner of shady yet inexpensive business dealings can be found at these places. It can be overwhelming with the noisy and ubiquitous Phoenix Legend Music, the rows upon rows upon piles upon closets upon heaps of colorless things to see, the endless floors to explore and the bulbous crowds of people. But for many visitors, it's a once in a lifetime experience. So why not experience it in one of the most fad shopping capitals in China?

TIPS

- After disembarking from one of the southbound buses from Guangzhou to Shenzhen (you can also take one of the very frequent and convenient high speed trains from the south railway station), the first thing I noticed while taking the subway was a lack of spoken Cantonese.



Beijing Garden Expo

By David Wong

北京园博园

中国人很喜欢园林艺术。古代的帝王就喜欢为自己修建多个皇家园林以供消遣，比如北京的颐和园和承德避暑山庄。而当今人们生活的空间十分拥挤，私家花园已经成为一件奢侈的事情，所以2013北京国际园博会就吸引了成千上万的游人。

北京园博园坐落在丰台区，乘坐地铁可以便捷到达。园区规划为“一轴、两区、三地标、五展园”。“一轴”即银杏大道（园博轴），是一条由园林博物馆至功能性湿地的南北向景观轴线；“两区”即园博湖景区和下沉式花园景区锦绣谷；“三地标”即永定塔、中国园林博物馆和主展馆，为园博会的三大标志性建筑；“五展园”即传统展园、现代展园、创意展园、国际展园和湿地展园。

The Chinese have a great love for gardens and traditionally the Emperor had several locations where he could visit and rest at these gardens such as the four temple areas in Beijing, the Summer Palace and his retreat in Chengde. Perhaps the other reason why gardens are still so popular is that since the Chinese live in such a crowded condition, the ordinary citizen is not able to have a garden so this exposition is expected to attract over 20 million guests.

Every second year China holds the

International Garden Exposition. 2013 is the 9th year for this prestigious event and the competition to be the host city began in 2009. Beijing is this year's host and the event will last six months opening on May 18th and closing in November.

The venue is in Beijing's Fengtai district and is located on a massive 267-hectare site. The best way of travelling to the site is by Beijing's subway. Take Line 10 and connect to Line 14 and the expo is the second last stop on Line 14 and the station name is Garden

Expo 园博园。They have even added special cars on this line 14 which are a bright green and wider and longer than the usual subway cars. I took the subway from Tiananmen and it took almost an hour so you can judge your time.

The Expo is open at 9:00 (ticket sales begin at 9:00 but the main gate does not open till 9:30 – this was a bit frustrating as we arrived at 9:00 and had to wait half an hour, at



Ticket Passport of 2013 Beijing International Garden Expo

which time quite a crowd had built up.) The Expo closes at 6pm. It is a huge area and a person can spend a whole day easily.

The ticket prices are 100rmb for adults and 70rmb for children and seniors (over 65) and kids under 1.2 meters tall are free. My Canadian friend was 66 and was able to pay the discounted price by showing a copy of his passport. The regular price escalates during "Peak Days" such as holidays and special events. This doesn't seem fair but I presume they hope to regulate the numbers by increasing prices.

There are plenty of food venues near each of the six gates. Prices are reasonable but we were visiting on a low attendance day and there were large crowds and line-ups for food, so I suggest you may want to take along some of your own snacks.

Gate 1 is the closest to the subway station. There are 6 gates and it takes about 40 minutes to walk the entire length of the grounds. You can take a free shuttle bus from the Subway to the outlining gates 3-6. But there are no English signs indicating this, look for a Chinese sign pointing to gate 3-6.

The other alternative is to take an open electric cart for 10 rmb that takes you to the far end of the Expo, near gate 6. From this point, you can enter the Garden Museum or also called the Main Pavilion. The charge for the electric cart is for one way, if you leave the cart, you cannot get back on without paying 10rmb. You can buy tickets at each of the 6 stopping points near the corresponding gates.

The main pavilion is excellent. It is very large and has 6 different exhibits on 2 floors. There is plenty of English translations on the exhibition signs but no English pamphlet. You can easily spend two hours here. Too bad there is no refreshment stand other than some vending machines. They have plenty of open space and a nice teahouse beside a garden would be perfect.

The park features several regional gardens and different themes. The sites are very well marked and have English and Chinese signs. There are plenty of volunteers, the Expo reports that 13,000 people have signed up as volunteers for the six months.

There are over one hundred different sites to be visited at the Expo so plan on a full day and be organized. The good thing is there are no extra charges to enter the other pavilions but you need to show your main



David Wong and Bill Cheung from Canada in Museum of Garden, in the main Pavilion

entrance ticket and they will give you another ticket for free to enter the Museum. Don't lose this ticket or throw it away! I saw one tourist who could not find the ticket and it was quite comical when she was leaving. They would not permit her to leave and finally she just followed some other tour closely to escape.

One venue that was disappointing was the International section, this was an area of several country pavilions but it was just a marketing venue of products from that region.

One other venue that we did not have time to visit was the YongDing Pagoda. It was the highest point of the Expo and would provide a great view of the exposition.

The Expo sells a passport and based on other events like the World Expo, you can have it stamped as you visit the different sights. You need to clarify where are the different sites that provide stamps. When we visited, there were only a few places and obviously they were not set up.

Tips

You can buy this ExpoPassport for 10rmb at the entrance ticket window.

- The different ticket prices can be confusing.
- 100 Yuan for regular tickets
- 70 Yuan for discounted tickets (Children and Seniors)
- 150 Yuan for regular tickets on Peak Days
- 110 Yuan for discounted tickets on Peak Days

To be fair, the day that we visited the Expo was May 20 just 2 days after the official opening, there were still some of the venues not open and there was some confusion on the part of the volunteers. By the time, you read this, they should have ironed out the bugs and better organized.

The website, which has extensive English is <http://en.expo2013.net> unfortunately the telephone contact numbers are only in Chinese.

This looks like it will be a permanent venue after November and worth the time and effort to visit. Enjoy.

Korean Air and Czech Airlines code share on the Incheon-Prague route



Korean Air has announced a code-share agreement with Czech Airlines on the Incheon-Prague route. The code sharing commenced on June 1, 2013, providing greater convenience and choice to passengers.

The Korean Air flight departs from Incheon International Airport on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 12:45 p.m. and arrives in Prague at 4:50 p.m. the same day. Czech Airlines operates on

Tuesdays and Sundays with the same departure and arrival schedule. The code-share agreement means the route is served by six flights per week.

An additional Czech Airlines flight on Thursdays is planned for the future to provide daily service.

Code sharing is an aviation business partnership through which a flight operated by one airline is jointly marketed by one or more other airlines. The purpose is to facilitate travel by allowing customers to fly multiple airlines with a single reservation in order to reach their final destination.

Korean Air currently has code-share partnerships with Czech Airlines flights connecting Prague to 17 major European cities including Frankfurt, Rome, Paris and Munich.

The Korean flag carrier also has code-share partnerships with 28 other airlines worldwide, including Delta Air Lines, Air France, KLM, China Southern Airlines and Saudi Airlines.

Mongolian afforestation project marks 10th years

Hanjin Group continues its global environmental initiative in Mongolia for the 10th consecutive year this year.

About 220 new employees of Korean Air, along with some 600 local residents and students, are planting trees in the "Korean Air Forest," located in the Baganor Desert near Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, in three stages May 6 to 24.

Hanjin Group started to plant trees in Mongolia in 2004 as part of its "Global Planting Project," a project aiming to improve the global environment. To celebrate the 10th year of its Mongolian afforestation project this year, the group plans to plant an additional 10,000 poplars, willows, elms and other trees on a 3-hectare site.

About 1,540 people have participated in planting trees over the last nine years, turning 35 hectares of desert land into a forest of some 77,000 trees. Hanjin's Mongolian project has won recognition as a successful forestation project overseas.

The "Korean Air Forest" is located in the Baganor Desert where desertification is rapidly proceeding due to global warming. Hanjin Group Chairman Cho Yang-ho himself visited the desert along with 100 new employees of Korean Air and planted the first trees there in 2004.

Since then, the group has flown to Mongolia not only its new employees but also college students participating in its overseas



training to help them gain enhanced awareness of the importance of global environmental protection.

The Mongolian government and people, who had had scant regard for environmental protection until 2004, have started to pay attention to the issue of deforestation and the environment thanks to the Hanjin Group project.

The "Korean Air Forest" has become established as a symbol of friendship between Korea and Mongolia. In 2006, the forest was recognized by the City of Ulan Bator as the Urban Park of the Year. In 2009, Korean Air was awarded the "Environmental Excellence Medal" by the government of Mongolia.

Tablet PCs introduced in-flight by Korean Air and Jin Air for the first time in Korea



Korean Air and its subsidiary Jin Air have introduced tablet PCs for in-flight operation for the first time in Korea to further improve their competitiveness.

The two airline companies, from last November to March this year, conducted a test to satisfy the related criteria of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport for regular use of tablet PCs by the cabin crew. As a result, the companies were given authorization for regular

use of tablet PCs on the A330 and B737 jets. The authorization is limited to use by flight attendants.

The cabin crew of Korean Air and Jin Air are able to more easily utilize various information related to flight operation on tablet PCs, which is expected to help enhance passenger service and improve working conditions.

Meantime, Korean Air and Jin Air will continue to expand the mobile working environment to all sectors for better communication with customers and improved service quality.

Korean Air has distributed tablet PCs to its 380 pursers since January this year to enable more convenient utilization of various flight information, in-flight announcements, and safety and service manuals. Jin Air also gave 65 tablet PCs to its cabin crew members for utilization in in-flight service.

Korean Air has also provided tablet PCs to all of its executives since January 2012 to help them utilize information anytime anywhere. It is also continuously expanding the system to allow collaboration using mobile devices.

Flights to Urumqi resumed on May 28

Korean Air resumed on May 28 its regular flight service to Urumqi, the capital city of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the northwest of China and a gateway to the Silk Road.

The airline started direct service between Incheon and Urumqi in 2004. Since then, it has offered services from May to October every year, when demand for tourist and business travel to Central Asia is concentrated.

This year, the flights are offered twice a week (on Tuesdays and Saturdays) from May 28 until Oct. 12. The departure time from Incheon International Airport is 7:40 p.m. and the arrival time in Urumqi is 00:10 a.m. the next day (local time). The return flight departs Urumqi at 1:20 a.m., arriving in Incheon at 7 a.m. the same day.

The largest city in western China, Urumqi has earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the city most remote from any sea in the world. Nestled in the northern foothills of the Tian Shan mountains, it is a vast plains area surrounded by mountains and waters. The name Urumqi means "beautiful pasture" in the Mongolian language of the Dzungar people.

As the western gateway to the Silk Road, Urumqi has a rich cultural heritage. There are also many natural attractions in and near the city,



including the snow-capped Tian Shan mountains, the mysterious Tianchi lake, an oasis city where the famous Chinese classic novel "Xi You Ji (Journey to the West)" was set, Turpan, and the Kumtag Desert, which was designated a national park in 2002.

With the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region developing rapidly under the strong support of the Chinese government, the resumed flight service to Urumqi by Korean Air is expected to serve not only the tourist demand in summer but also the convenience of businessmen engaged in trade and resource development in Central Asia.

Korean Air will consider year-round service to Urumqi after watching developments in the region.

LOCALEVENTS

Movie star in town



Bu Bu Jing Qing crew filmed at Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe recently. The main actress and actor, Cecilia Liu and Nicky Wu are pictured with Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe's General Manager Ringo Poon.

Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe wins 2013 HURUN Hot Hotel Award



Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe received a "Hurun Hot Hotel" award from Hurun Report magazine's fourth annual The Hurun Presidential Awards held on 3 June in Shanghai. The Hurun Hot Hotel award is presented to hotels opened in China within the past year which the Hurun Report editorial team believes will set new standards in the local hospitality industry.

Discover RLife LIVE - 3D Tonight @Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

On the 19th June 2013, as part of The Renaissance Hotels second annual "Global Day of Discovery" celebration. Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel held an R Life LIVE event called "3D tonight" which means Drink, Dance and Discover, and offered the guests the unique opportunity to discover the very best of the hotel. More than 500 guests joined the party, including 50 media guests.



The event started with the Live Band, followed by national dance, Cha-Cha, Samba and Cowboy dance and jewelry fashion show. DJ Coco led the party to the climax. Nevertheless every guest enjoyed the Drinking and Dancing while Discovering this amazing party under this wonderful summer evening night.

Starwood Hotels Joined the Dragon Boat Race

Starwood hotels in Tianjin area took part in the Dragon Boat Race on Haihe River on 12th June, 2013. Five Starwood hotels selected 24 associates and spg members to participate this big event. They prepared purple T-shirts and caps. Five hotels make the fabulous training journey for all players. Athletes can use the fitness center in The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin; eat healthy food in the Sheraton Binhai Hotel; swim in Sheraton Tianjin Hotel, experience Heavenly SPA treatment in The Westin Tianjin. Mr. Christian Metzner said: "Starwood Hotels & Resorts always show Starwood Care to its guests and associates. It is a great opportunity for us to play as one team this time."



The Artists from Philadelphia Orchestra visit in The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin



3 artists from Philadelphia Orchestra gave a special performance in the Victorian Lounge of The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin recently. The Philadelphia Orchestra was found in 1900, and The Astor Hotel will celebrate its 150 Anniversary in this July. Both of them have a long history over 100 years. The General Manager, Mr. Christian Metzner, said: "We are honored to invite these artists to perform in our hotel. Elegant art dose not only exist in the theater, but also for the ordinary people. Three artists visited the old Otis elevator after a show, and took photos with hotel management team."

Experience the Chinese Opera During Dragon Boat Festival

Organized by Tianjin Historical Building Management Company, the traditional Chinese Culture Event was held on June 10, 2013 in Min Yuan Xi Li Culture & Creativity Zone. There were an exhibition of opera costume and makeup, folk music concert and creativity market during the event. Moreover, there will be more Chinese cultural events at Min Yuan Xi Li in the future and let more people get to know the Chinese tradition and arts.

Shanghai Time launched signature Shanghai dishes



Shanghai Time Grand Banquet happened on June 13 was co-organized by Shanghai Time Restaurant, Elegancy Magazine and Tianjin Food TV. As a celebration of the restaurant's 10th anniversary, the gala was featured with ten well-known chefs specialized in Shanghai cuisine who presented their own signature dishes. They inherited the tradition of Shanghai cuisine while did partial modification to better suit the taste of modern people. Customers can book for these dishes at all Shanghai Time branches.

Sheraton Tianjin Hotel will hold the 2013 Bridal Show

The 2013 BRIDAL SHOW will hold at Sheraton Tianjin Hotel on June 2, 2013. From the latest in wedding fashion accessories, favours, flowers, cakes, djs, transportation, and all the things that go into making every wedding unique and special, exhibitors at the Sheraton Tianjin Hotel Bridal Show showcase the best of the best.



ASCOTT IS FIRST SERVICED RESIDENCE COMPANY TO BE CONFERRED BUSINESS SUPERBRANDS STATUS

CapitalLand's wholly-owned serviced residence business unit, The Ascott Limited (Ascott), has been conferred the coveted Business Superbrands status in Singapore. Business Superbrands is an internationally recognised accolade which pays tribute to the best and most valued business-to-business brands around the world. Ascott is the first serviced residence company to receive this recognition.

The accolade is presented to brands that have met the stringent standards set by the Superbrands organisation in the areas of achievement, innovation, market share, reputation and corporate social responsibility. Brands were evaluated by Superbrands' independent panel of marketing and branding experts as well as senior business leaders. Some of the notable brands that were accorded business Superbrands status last year were SAP, IBM, Microsoft, Canon, SingTel and Singapore Airlines.



Yi Boutique Luxury Hotel Supported Charity Event

A charity event was held at Tianjin Yi Boutique Luxury Hotel from May 31 to June 2. Pass on Your Love was a donation sale for two young leukemia patients. Local young artists donated their creations, including handicrafts, photography, postcards and accessories, for charity sale.

The event was co-organized by Yi Boutique Hotel, Jin Ze Charity and Lance Culture. Yi Boutique opened the courtyard for the event and gave full support to charity.

At the end of the event, over 10,000RMB was collected for the two patients. The fund will be handed over to the patients' families for their remedy at Tianjin Blood Research Institute.



Global Village



On 1st June, AIESEC NKU (a student-run organization in Nankai University) held up an event called as "Global Village" in Jinwan Square, which is a very famous spot in Tianjin. The "Global Village" supplied a communication platform for foreign and local university students. There are more than 5,000 participants in the event. Young professionals from different countries and areas have showed their talented performance such as Beijing Opera, African Dance, Ukraine Song, etc. And also the participants were enjoyed by playing games and being knowledgeable from more than 20 different cultures. Everyone in the event was excited and relaxed by having an international atmosphere. This event proves that Tianjin becomes a multicultural city.

"Exclusive and Memorable Wedding" 2013 Tianjin TEDA International Hotel Wedding Fair

Tianjin TEDA International Hotel hosted a grand wedding fair in cooperation with Binhai New Area reputable wedding industry professionals on June 12, 2013, and presented special wedding decorations and shows to give an exclusive visual feast for the attendees.

Five different styles wedding shows exhibited splendid and magnificent modern weddings at the events. At the European style North Garden, newlyweds filled with champagne to wish a complete success for the hotel wedding fair; the bride and groom in the elegant romantic South Garden declared the matrimonial vows, and throw the bouquets to the guests to deliver the happiness; a touching wedding drama staged on the solemn lobby and Chinese style wedding photography show presented on the Chinese restaurant. The most exciting moment was the proposals on gorgeous Binhai Grand Ballroom, many of the audiences moved to tears.

Tianjin TEDA International Hotel creates fairy-tale venues for weddings and provides exclusive and memorable wedding for the couples.



Tangla Hotel Tianjin wins the "Top Presidential Suite" by 2013 Hurun Presidential Suite Awards



Hurun Presidential Suite Awards Ceremony was successfully held in Shanghai on 3 June, 2013. More than 200 distinguished guests of Hurun Report attended the ceremony where Tangla Hotel Tianjin won the "Top Presidential Suite".

As the outstanding leader of Luxury travels, Hurun Report is always striving to reveal Chinese luxury consumers' preferences on brand recognition, consuming habit and lifestyle so as to describe their lifestyle changes. All the winners of "Top Presidential Suite" were chosen based on the experiences of mystery shoppers, made up of Chinese billionaire luxury travelers from the Hurun Rich List, and a detailed scorecard featuring the suites' key facilities.

The oversized, luxurious residences are "enchanting in every detail, embracing the inimitable style of celebrated privacy and unrivalled residential charm", says Fintan O'Doherty, General Manager, Tangla Hotel Tianjin.



Elevator Safety

By Parker Barribal

电梯惊魂

几个月前，有几宗骇人听闻的电梯安全事件震惊全国。几条鲜活的生命葬送在那几平米的小小空间之内。其实，我每天也生活得提心吊胆，因为我所住的大厦最缺乏的就是电梯的安全。

我居住的公寓是个商住两用楼。虽然房间的设施不错，生活也便利，但每天出入大厦的人员混杂，电梯永远挤得满满的。而我又住在33楼，除了每天冒着生命危险踏进电梯没有其他选择。

楼里的四部电梯24小时超负荷工作，几乎每天都有一部罢工。这样的结果不过就是多等一会儿，而真正令人害怕的是毫无征兆的坠梯事故。我自己就经历过一次，当时电梯里挤了20个人，在自由落下的那一刻，即便你没有任何宗教信仰，也会禁不住望向天空祈求神灵救助。

有的人会把这样的情况归咎于缺少妥善维护。但实际情况是，永远有几个“维修工”在那摆弄着那些零件。不过，这些毛头小子和专业的维修工人形象相差甚远。为什么大楼的业主不找一个靠谱点的维修公司呢？当然他们有自己的小算盘。北京市电梯商会的秘书长徐荣根说：“电梯的常规维修成本大概是10000元，但有些公司只收1/3的价格，其维修质量可以想象。”

发生事故之后，很多媒体和管理部门都呼吁要有更严格的管理和处罚措施。但实际上，我们并不缺少这样的法律法规，白纸黑字都可以查得到。只不过有多少人是完全按照这些规定执行呢？

This spring the Chinese blogosphere saw a huge uptick in a very interesting safety issue, (lack of) elevator safety. There were reports of cars falling and killing an elderly woman in Hubei, in Xian a woman stepped into an empty elevator shaft, from the 15th floor, when the doors erroneously opened. In Shenzhen a nurse was literally cut in half when she was exiting an elevator and it dropped while she was mid-stride. Why bring up such a disturbing topic? Because, I have had it up to my eyeballs with the lack of elevator safety in China.

For a year I have lived in building in the central part of Tianjin. The apartments there are decent enough and buying daily necessities very convenient. Unfortunately if you live there your neighbors tend to be ladies of the night, young guys who use stairwells as

toilets (something I had the unfortunate chance to witness first hand), and a whole host of businesses whose clientele keep the lifts nice and packed. By far the most intolerable part of this little hell hole is the elevator situation.

The building was not designed with enough elevators to start with, even if the only people using them were residents. Add to this extra traffic of customers, and add to that the ridiculous state of disrepair the elevators are constantly in, and you have the recipe for a lip biting, count to ten before you explode, kind of situation. Every day, and I do not exaggerate at least one of the 4 elevators in each tower would go out of service for some period of time. I lived on the 33rd floor of said building and while the view was great overlooking the Wuda Dao area, taking the stairs was not really a viable option. So several times a day I abandoned all hope of personal space, (which after all par for the course here in China), and face certain death in an attempt to go about my daily routine. More than a few times in my year there has an elevator stopped, and even dropped with me and 20 of my 'closest' friends riding inside. My worst personal record for a drop was 2 floors, though I have heard accounts from other round eyes of dropping some 8 floors. It does not matter about your personal religious beliefs, in those few seconds of free fall, packed in a metal coffin with 20 strangers, you do look to the sky for a bit of help.

Now, one might assume that all this drama could be chalked up to neglect on the maintenance side, which is partially true, after all, an elevator is a machine that can be fixed, or better yet replaced, just like any other. But this is only half of the story. The craziest thing about the whole daily nuthouse scene was that repairmen were constantly working on the machines. Now, if you are new to the China game, the word 'repairman' may conjure up the image of a professional in a uniform with some mechanical training, maybe an electrician, or other special tradesman. But this is China, and the grease monkeys climbing in these shafts were usually mere teenagers or early twenty-somethings, who did not seem to have a clue or care in the world whilst they banged the gears of broken lifts without mercy (in plain sight of this terrified Westerner). Surely the owners of said building could have sprung for a decent repair company, or better yet, called the

manufacturer in to fix his own product. But we all know how much this is just wishful thinking. No, in a real "the bottom line is my only concern approach" approach, the people in charge of that building have certainly done a cost benefit analysis and discovered that the liability of paying for a few wrongful deaths at some point in the future is more beneficial to their bottom line than proper maintenance today. It really is business as usual, and while we all know this kind of thing runs rampant in the middle kingdom; it becomes more real and higher stake, when you are the one in the dropping elevator car.

Like many other buildings in Tianjin, my building however is not unique in suffering the scourge of grim reaper elevators. The deaths described above attracted a lot of criticism of Chinese regulators. According to statistics from the top quality bureau, there were 36 elevator accidents last year that claimed 28 lives. And you if you will buy that I have some ocean front property in Arizona that I would love to show you. Let's take a minute and ponder that number and just assume it is accurate. That total is just over the US number by one soul. One might initially see essentially the same number of deaths and say look how unsafe the US is too. But China has over 3 times the population as the US, do you really believe that the numbers have any possibility of being that close? Even if the proportion of US deaths held up in China, and it wouldn't, you should expect at least a death toll in the 90's.

The accuracy of the statistics in this case is really irrelevant though, because most of these reported deaths are preventable through proper maintenance. According to Xu Ronggen, secretary-general of Beijing Chamber of Elevator Commerce, "Regular maintenance costs about 10,000RMB, but some companies only charge a third of that, which is not enough for the cost of conscientious upkeep." Xu went on to say, "It couldn't be more important to have a stricter assessment of manufacturers and maintenance businesses in the elevator industry. Otherwise it won't be surprising if there are more fatal accidents." It's an interesting comment coming from someone who works in exactly that office, but I digress. The point is that again the average citizen is put in a dangerous, yet avoidable, situation simply because owners are greedy or lazy, and regulators and enforcement agencies are not doing their job.

The problem is not a lack of regulation; those are already in place on paper. In fact Chinese requirements on elevator safety require checks and adjustments every 15 days, and over 20 safety points are to be assessed. But if there really were all the inspections, wouldn't we expect a few less fatalities?

So what is the take away from a situation like this? Should people be outraged? Should we accept that old refrain "There are just too many people in China to..." Who knows? But all the money and geopolitical power in the world doesn't mean anything to the average citizen if they have to roll the dice on something as simple as stepping into the elevator. Is this just a ringing endorsement for the health benefits of taking the stairs, it could be if your ability to see the silver lining is even more powerful than your rose tinted glasses. One might look at a piece like this and think, it's not worth getting worked up over, things won't change. Well, if that attitude of resignation persists it becomes a self fulfilling prophecy. We all know China has its challenges to consumer safety but just because the mode of speaking out is different here, doesn't mean it doesn't exist. A small comment coming from a billion becomes a statement pretty fast.





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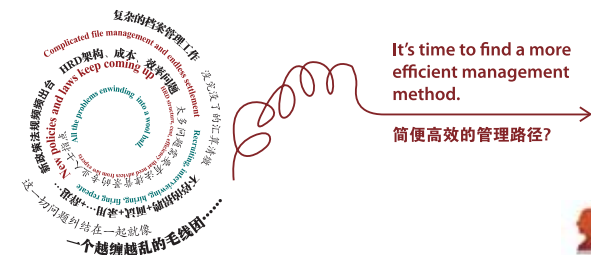
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