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中国  画报

A Window to the Nation A Welcome to the World

# CHINA PICTORIAL

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Zhang Daqian's  
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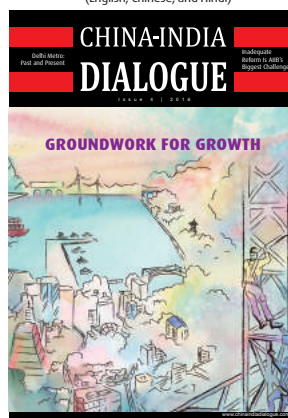
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by Ju Peng/Xinhua

## Xi Honors Top Scientists

January 8, Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping (center) presents China's top science award to virologist Hou Yunde (left) and explosives expert Wang Zeshan for their outstanding contributions to scientific and technological innovation.

Wang Zeshan, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), is known as the "King of Explosives" for his research into compounds with important civilian and military applications. Hou Yunde,

also an academician at the CAE, is the founder of China's work in modern virology. He laid the foundation for China's molecular virus research, wrote numerous textbooks, created China's first genetically engineered drugs—highly potent medicines that can be mass-produced—saving millions of lives and billions for the country's economy.

The nation's top science award comes with a prize of 5 million yuan (US\$769,000). Twenty-nine scientists have received the award since it was established in 2000.





VCG

## ➤ New Era for China-France Ties

January 8, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province: French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron pose for photos next to the famous terracotta warriors during a visit to China.

China is keen on engaging in joint efforts with France to enhance cooperation under the Belt and Road framework using the principle of mutual benefits, President Xi Jinping said while meeting with his French counterpart in Beijing. The two countries can rise above their differing social systems, developmental periods, culture and traditions to enhance political trust and work

on their cooperation potential, Xi said.

President Macron spoke highly of the Belt and Road Initiative, and declared that France would like to play an active role in building the initiative, adding that he also would like to boost mutual trust and strengthen the two nations' ties as well as Europe-China relations.

After taking office in May 2017, President Macron made his first state visit to China from January 8 to 10, 2018. He arrived in Beijing after a half-day visit to the northwestern Chinese city of Xi'an, one of the eastern ends of the ancient Silk Road.





Xinhua

## Opening Up, Opportunity & Development

January 24, Davos, Switzerland: Liu He, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the General Office of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Affairs, gives a speech during the Annual Meeting 2018 of the World Economic Forum.

During his speech, Liu declared that China will encourage both inbound and outbound investment and business activities as it seeks greater economic and trade interaction with other countries and works with them

to establish an open world economy. After decades of development, a large middle-income population has emerged in China, giving rise to a vast domestic market. This open market with a fast-growing population of 400 million will contribute significantly to global development, Liu added.

“It was a very positive message from China,” opined Mohammed Sharaf, an economy and trade official from the United Arab Emirates. “China’s opening up not only benefits itself, but also brings huge opportunity to the whole world.”





by Wang Jianwei/Xinhua

## ➤ Icy Fantasy World

January 5, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province: Tourists visit illuminated ice sculptures at the Ice and Snow World. The 34th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival (HIISF) kicked off that day. It lasts until end of February, when the ice generally begins to melt.

This year Harbin introduced seven categories of winter tourism products, and some 100 ice and snow-themed activities to improve the festival for visitors. Activities include 16 professional and 44 non-professional ice and

snow sports events, 13 ice and snow tourism activities targeting students and 30 themed art and cultural activities.

Harbin ranked first on the “Top Ten Chinese Cities for Ice and Snow Tourism” list recently released by China Tourism Academy. Originating from the Ice Lantern Show in 1985, the HIISF has become one of the world’s four largest ice and snow festivals, along with the Sapporo Snow Festival in Japan, the Quebec Winter Carnival in Canada and the Ski Festival in Norway.





# Reforming Towards Scientific Structure for Exercising Power

Text by Li Yongzhong

China's reform of the national supervision system, which is closely related to its anti-corruption campaign, is emphasized by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) as a "major structural political reform that has a direct impact on the big picture."

China's anti-graft drive since the 18th CPC National Congress has resulted in remarkable outcomes. The goal that those in power do not dare to commit corruption has been basically achieved. According to the *Report on the Work of the 18th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection*, 440 officials at or above provincial or corps level had been investigated for corruption since the 18th CPC National Congress. Among them, 43 were members or alternate members of the 18th CPC Central Committee, and nine members of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) were investigated. More than 8,900 city-level officials and over 63,000 county-level officials were punished during that period. A total of 58,000 people have been handed over to judicial authorities for suspected corruption. A review of the anti-graft campaign during the past five years shows that the number of corrupt officials has decreased significantly thanks to such tough measures and discipline. And the goal of ensuring officials dare not attempt corruption has been achieved basically. However, we should take a sober look at the

goal, which has just been achieved at a basic level, not comprehensively. Party members should resolutely safeguard the authority of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core. As the "time to develop a permanent cure and support from the people are gained from an accumulation of temporary solutions," only by shifting from temporary solutions to a permanent cure can the goal of those with power daring not ever commit corruption be fully achieved.

On October 27, 2016, the communiqué of the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee referred to "the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi at the core." At 7:55 p.m. on November 7, 2016, the CCDI, China's supreme anti-corruption watchdog, published on its website the news that the General Office of the CPC Central Committee released a plan for a pilot reform program in Beijing, Shanxi Province and Zhejiang Province. According to the plan, supervision commissions will be set up in these three places to explore new mechanisms and systems. The document stressed that the reform of the national supervision system is a "major structural political reform that will have a direct impact on the big picture" and is the top-level design. On December 25, 2016, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislative body, approved a decision to carry out the pilot program of reforming the


national supervision system in these three places. The decision stated that "the reform of the supervision system and the establishment of supervisory commissions for a centralized, unified, authoritative, and highly-efficient national supervision system are a major structural political reform that has a direct impact on the big picture." Less than two months after Xi Jinping was formally identified as the core of the CPC Central Committee, the plan for the pilot program was released, and finally approved by the NPC.


What is the goal for the reform of the national supervision system? Experience across four decades of China's reform and opening up has shown that the emphasis of economic reform falls on restructuring, while political reform also focuses on structural adjustment. Many people don't understand why the pilot program was identified by the CPC Central Committee as a "major structural political reform that has a direct impact on the big picture." Some have opined that it is merely another stronger anti-graft measure while others say that the Party discipline watchdog is expanding its power. They didn't identify the relationship between the pilot reform program and what Xi Jinping called "forming scientific structure to exercise power." We can see from the highlights of the past five years that the key to the "four-pronged comprehensive strategy" is to comprehensively strengthen Party discipline, which will be paved by a strong anti-graft campaign. The major anti-corruption movement during the past five years has gained crushing momentum.

But how can this momentum be optimally tapped? The CPC Central Committee has made two major decisions: First, "the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core" was officially declared at



the Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee; Second, the pilot program that “has a direct impact on the big picture” was released later. Logic dictates that supervision commissions are actually anti-corruption organs. And the reform of the supervision system is to replace supervision bodies affiliated with local governments with supervision organs elected by the people’s congresses at various levels. The newly elected supervision organs, with status equal to administrative bodies at the same level, supervise their administration. Meanwhile, they will also “supervise those exercising public power.” This reform separates supervision bodies from the administration. And the goal of deepening the reform of the national supervision system is meant to improve the self-supervision of the Party and the country. To achieve this end, modernization of the country’s governing system and capabilities (one of China’s five goals on modernization) should be given close attention. Modernization of the governing system should be accomplished by forming scientific structure to exercise power, while modernization of the latter requires a reform of the system to select officials.

Accordingly, the reform of the national supervision system is conducive to anti-graft. It is also conducive to forming scientific structure to exercise power and reconstructing political ecology and helps comprehensively strengthen Party discipline in the new era, so that the reform of the leadership of the CPC and the country can be achieved and the great social revolution can develop through self-revolution of the Party. 

 The author is an expert on institutional anti-corruption and former deputy head of the Chinese Academy of Discipline Inspection and Supervision.

## 国土绿化行动 Afforestation Campaign

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

In China, afforestation plays a fundamental role in building ecological civilization and safeguarding ecological security. It also lays a foundation for building a beautiful China and implementing the rural vitalization strategy. According to General Secretary Xi Jinping’s report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China will promote afforestation, take comprehensive steps to control desertification, stony deserts and soil erosion, strengthen wetland



October 9, 2017: The landscape of the Greater Hinggan Mountains in Heilongjiang Province of northeastern China. VCG

conservation and restoration and better prevent and control geological disasters. China will improve its system for protecting natural forests and transform more marginal farmland into forests and grasslands. China will rigorously protect farmland and expand trials in crop rotation and keeping land fallow. China will improve systems for regeneration of croplands, grasslands, forests, rivers, and lakes, and set up diversified market-based mechanisms for ecological compensation.

Statistics from China’s State Forestry Administration shows that the country planted 29.83 million hectares of trees over the past five years, and the growth of its forest resources was faster and greater than that of any other country during the same period. China’s forest coverage has risen to 21.66 percent.

Next, China will launch a large-scale afforestation campaign. The country aims to expand more than 100 million *mu* (each *mu* is equivalent to 0.067 hectares) of forests in 2018, including a 50-million-hectare man-made forest, while tending 120 million *mu* of existing forest. By 2020, China’s woody plant coverage will exceed 29 percent and its forest stock will rise to 16.5 billion cubic meters. China aims to increase its forest coverage to 23.04 percent by 2020 and 26 percent by 2035, and this number is expected to reach the world average by the middle of this century.

## 全球治理观 Principles of Global Governance

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

In his report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping declared, “China will continue to play its part as a major and responsible country, take an active part in reforming and developing the global governance system and keep contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to global governance.” China follows the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration in engaging in global governance. China stands for democracy in international relations and the equality of all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor. China supports the United Nations in playing an active role in international affairs, and supports the efforts of other developing countries to increase their representation and strengthen



November 1, 2017: A giant earth model in Bonn, Germany as the United Nations Climate Change Conference is held. The

Chinese delegation contributed wisdom and delivered plans at the conference, effectively promoting negotiations aimed at bridging different delegations despite their differences. VCG

their voice in international affairs.

Along with promoting the transformation of the global governance system, China has drawn up its own plans to tackle major issues in global governance. On several diplomatic occasions, Xi stated China’s views and offered China’s solutions for many issues including major country relations, economic globalization, the internet, the environment, the oceans, security, polar regions, outer space, nuclear security, poverty relief, sustainable development and cultural exchange, forming a multi-tiered and multi-faceted plan for global governance covering economics, politics, culture, environment and security. 





# The Red Pajamas

Text by Ragnar Baldursson

Every visitor to China forms their own unique opinion, and foreign-born residents tend to fancy themselves “China experts” within the space of a couple of months or so. As they stay longer, their authoritative claims of understanding China tend to become less assertive. Observations made by foreign visitors and even longtime residents are invariably tainted by their own expectations and cultural backgrounds.

I am no exception. I have revised my understanding, or rather misunderstanding, of Chinese people, society and culture over and over again.

Ragnar Baldursson with his Danish friend Verner Worm, as well as their Chinese room-mates, in Beijing during the winter of 1978.



## First Impression

I enjoyed pondering the sights passing by the window of the train taking me from Guangzhou to Beijing on my first visit to China in October 1975 as a scholarship student.

China was not a rich country. Dried mud supplemented bricks as building material in villages. The cities were over-crowded with a steady flow of people on every street, either on foot or bicycles. The only sharp or shining colors to be found were on red flags and banners.

People dressed simply. I remember thinking that the green, blue or gray outfits might be economical. They could be mass-produced and didn't require any expensive materials.

Rural roads were narrow and seemed to facilitate more horse-drawn carts than trucks. Some people rode bicycles, but not as many as I had expected. Three-wheeled vehicles and tractors were common. That preserved resources, I thought. They didn't seem very safe, though. Overcrowded buses shuttled down streets, but hardly any sedans could be found.

I don't think anyone at that time imagined that China's streets would soon be filled with private cars. I didn't either. The concept of private cars starkly contrasted with the egalitarian ideology of the Mao era before reform policies were introduced at the end of the 1970s. Besides, I guessed that there were not

enough resources in China for the wasteful mass consumption of the Western world. It was inconceivable that car traffic would ever supplant the flow of bicycles in Chinese cities.

## Have You Eaten?

It took some time to adjust to the most common greeting, which involves asking whether the other person has eaten: *Chi fan le ma?* Gradually, I realized that this kind of greeting, which remains common in Beijing, is primarily reserved for people you know.

People you don't know should be greeted by stating that they are good: “*Ni hao*,” which literally means “you are good.” It sounds like an answer to the English greeting “How do you do?” or “How are you?”

Greeting friends does not necessarily have to relate to eating, however. Other personal questions are just as acceptable. If you see a friend coming out of a shower room with wet hair, you can ask if he has showered. Upon meeting someone exiting his front door in the morning, you can ask if he just woke up.

It used to be polite to tell people that they have put on weight, but with changing lifestyles, most would probably prefer to be informed that they have lost weight. The point is to show personal concern.

Asking about family is normal. Your family relations define who you are. Information about brothers or sisters is invariably followed up with question about their age: “Are they older or younger than you?” I am the oldest of four children in my family. This factor seemed important to my Chinese friends.

It took me years to understand this obsession with age. Gradually, I came to realize that the age order





A grocery store in a Beijing village decades ago. Back then, to meet villagers' demand for daily commodities, many supply and marketing cooperatives were set up on the outskirts of Beijing. CFB

is crucial in Chinese culture. Older siblings have the responsibility of protecting and guiding their younger sisters and brothers, who in turn should show respect for their elders and follow their advice.

### Boiled Water or Tap Water

Upon arriving at my school, I discovered that as a scholarship student, I got my own wash basin, washing board, water cup, thermos and bedding. These were valuable items and I would have to return them after finishing my studies.

A Chinese student who had been studying English for a year showed me around the premises. I asked him about the drinking water. Would I be able to drink the tap water at the dormitory?

My parents had not expressed any specific worries about my adventure to China to study, except for the distance and the drinking water. We drink water directly from the tap in

Iceland. I asked my student guide if it was okay to drink the tap water at the school. He took me down to the boiling room, where residents could get boiled water directly from the boiler 24 hours a day.

But he didn't understand my question. We went up to the washing room and I asked if the water there was drinkable. He looked puzzled. Sure, it would be drinkable, but hot water was only available in the afternoon, and it was still not really hot enough for drinking.

I specified cold water and repeated the question. Would I be able to drink cold tap water? My friend was at a loss. Why on earth would I want to drink cold water? Maybe it was possible. He had never tried it, because it was not as good or healthy as hot water.

It was interactions like these that helped me understand that most cultural differences had nothing to

do with politics.


### Pajamas Dilemma

A couple of weeks after arriving at Beijing Language Institute (later renamed Beijing Culture and Language University), I got a Chinese roommate, Xiao Zhao, who was studying English. We were expected to help each other with our studies. His English was basic and my Chinese almost non-existent. In the beginning, we relied on dictionaries for communication.

My mother had sent along with me a pair of bright red pajamas. She insisted that she got them for a good price, and that the color had nothing to do with politics. As I changed into my pajamas in the evening, I noticed my roommate watching. He didn't wear pajamas. He would just put on more clothes if it was cold.

It seemed to me that he was smirking; in fact he was trying not to laugh. Finally, I asked why he was laughing. He responded by asking if I was going anywhere. If not, why was I changing clothes?

I thought he had a point. There was no need to dress up to sleep. Anyway, my mother was nowhere around to check up on me. So, I stopped changing into pajamas in the evening.

When I reviewed this episode in my mind four decades later, I eventually realized that I had misunderstood the mirth of my roommate. Red is a festive color in Chinese culture. My bright red pajamas had exactly the same color as traditional Chinese wedding costumes. No wonder my roommate found it funny. 

■ The author is an Icelandic diplomat who studied in China in the 1970s. He is also the author of the book *Nineteen Seventy-Six*.





September 6, 2017: Technicians work on a  $\pm 800\text{KV}$  ultra-high-voltage direct-current transmission project from northwestern Yunnan Province to Guangdong Province. Xinhua

# The Power of Innovation

Text by Zhang Xue



In recent years, China has made successive breakthroughs in scientific and technological innovation as well as major project construction. The Huiyan, China's first X-ray astronomical satellite, was launched, the C919, China's first large passenger airplane, made its maiden flight, the world's first quantum computer was born in China, seawater paddy fields began trial operation, China's first homegrown aircraft carrier was launched, and the Haiyi underwater glider finished its first deep-sea exploration.

China has made tremendous progress in technological development and become a torchbearer in innovation, which has become an important driving force for the country's growth.

On January 1, 2018, the 2017 State Science and Technology Awards honored 271 projects in three categories—the State Natural Science Award, National Science and Technology Progress Award and State Technological Invention Award—and awarded nine individual scientists. Wang Zeshan, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) and professor at Nanjing University of Science and Technology, and Hou Yunde, also an academician at the CAE and head of the Institute of Pathogen Biology at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, won the State Preeminent Science and Technology Award, China's highest scientific honor, which was presented by Chinese President Xi Jinping. And seven foreign scientists won the state award for international scientific and technological cooperation.

## Explosive Science

Born in 1935, Wang Zeshan claims he is a man of limited abilities. "I discovered I excelled at only one thing in the world," he explained. "I'm not good at anything except researching explosives." Over the past 63 years, he has dedicated himself to improving explosives.

Wang chose explosive science when he was enrolled in Harbin Military Engineering College in 1954, and it was not a popular major. Seeing that so few people dared study it,

he felt the discipline was sorely needed by the country. At that point, "do what my country needs me to do" became his life-long motto.

"By following and copying others, we'll always be restricted," insists Wang. "Our technology needs to lead the world." As early as the 1980s, he and his team overcame the problems related to recycling spent explosives by transforming them into civilian and military products. This won him the first prize of the National Science and Technology Progress Award in 1993. In the 1990s, Wang developed new materials that are resistant to changes in temperature to improve the energy utilization and long-term storage of some explosives. This world-stunning breakthrough won him the sole first prize of the State Technological Invention Award in 1996.

Winning such awards was never the end goal for Wang. Long after he reached retirement age, Wang and his team continued to explore new research areas.

In 2016, after two decades of efforts, Wang and his team solved emerging technical problems in explosives for long-range and high-velocity weapons that had bothered his international colleagues for a long time.

Subsequently, Wang took China's highest scientific honor once again, becoming one of only a handful to win all of the nation's three state-class science and technology awards.

June 24, 2014:  
China's homegrown  
deep-sea manned  
submersible  
Jiaolong is lowered  
into the water. The  
next day, its mother-  
ship Xiangyanghong  
09 took it to the  
northwestern Pacific  
Ocean for a trial.  
VCG







### Upgrading “Made in China”

An 800KV ultra-high-voltage direct-current transmission project launched by State Grid Corporation is one of the 217 projects to win this year’s State Science and Technology Awards. It boasted the highest voltage, greatest capacity and furthest direct-current transmission technology in the world.

Today, economic growth depends increasingly on energy while the ecological environment demands cleaner power. Over 80 percent of China’s energy resources are distributed through the western and northern areas, while over 70 percent of power consumption is concentrated in the eastern and middle parts. The vast area involved in the west-to-east electricity transmission strategy extends from 1,000 to more than 2,000 kilometers, requiring a grid with large capacity and high efficiency.

Using the technological breakthrough in power transmission, China built 12 ultra-high voltage direct-current transmission systems

capable of transiting 93.6 million kilowatts in total. Over 80 percent of the power comes from clean energy sources, cutting 170 million tons of coal consumption and 450 million tons of carbon emissions. The project has transferred the resource advantages of China’s western areas into economic growth, promoted an energy revolution and laid a solid foundation for the prevention of air pollution and the construction of a beautiful China.

In 2014 and 2015, State Grid Corporation won successive bidding for the first and second phases of an 800KV ultra-high-voltage direct-current transmission project in Brazil’s Belo Monte. The company also conducted project feasibility studies for ultra-high-voltage direct-current transmission interconnection projects with Kazakhstan, Russia and Mongolia. Featuring a complete industrial chain and value chain, the company has earned US\$35 billion from international cooperation projects.

“The invention of ultra-high-voltage





❶ December 9, 2016: A photomontage shows a laser being fired from a ground station in Ngari Prefecture in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region to the orbiting Mozi, the world's first quantum satellite, to conduct a quantum teleportation experiment. Xinhua

❷ June 5, 2016: Visitors at an exhibition surveying China's technological achievements during its 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015). China's home-grown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is the third mature global navigation satellite system after the U.S.' GPS and Russia's GLONASS. VCG



❸ October 31, 2017: Li Jiayang (left), an academician with the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, checks rice growth. Li's new breed of rice won first prize at the State Natural Science Awards. Xinhua

technology has brought great changes to the world," says Shu Yinbiao, chairman of the corporation. "The project has become a sterling brand and set high standards for others in the construction of the Belt and Road."

### Chinese Immune System

Newly emerging infectious diseases and outbreaks have posed great threats and challenges for mankind. The 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndromes (SARS) outbreak caused great pain and remains fresh in Chinese people's memories. One prize this year was awarded to a technology related to the prevention and control of human infection of H7N9 bird flu.

In 2013 after a strain of the avian influenza virus took many lives, Li Lanjuan, an academician of the CAE and dean of the State Key Laboratory for Infectious Diseases Diagnosis and Treatment at Zhejiang University, was assigned to research and combat the virus.

Li suggested the live-bird markets be shut

down. After considerable efforts, she and her team made some major breakthroughs: They invented "Li's artificial liver," founded new etiology, discovered the source of infection, verified the pathogenesis, carried out clinical treatment and developed a new vaccine and diagnostic techniques, effectively controlling the spread of the H7N9 virus.

Systemic and technological breakthroughs in emerging infectious disease prevention and treatment have protected Chinese people's health and resulted in rich Chinese experience that can be shared with the world.

### International Cooperation

Since 1995, China has bestowed prizes upon 113 foreign experts and three international organizations to honor their contributions to international scientific and technological cooperation. This year, seven foreign experts were honored. Shavkat Salikhov, director of the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, was among them.

As early as 15 years ago, Salikhov began collaborating with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Over a decade and a half, the two sides jointly educated over 20 postgraduates, exchanged 20 visiting scholars and conducted 10 scientific research projects.

In 2013, after a proposal by Salikhov, China and Uzbekistan began jointly building the Central Asian Center for Research and Development of Medicines in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. The center is dedicated to producing medicines that utilize natural advantages of Central Asia, promoting Chinese medicine to Central Asia and Europe and popularizing Uzbek medicine with the Chinese public.

"Foreign experts have raised the levels of China's international cooperation on scientific and technological innovation," declares Chen Zhimin, deputy director of the Office for Science and Technology Awards. "By honoring them with awards, we hope to encourage more foreign scientists and organizations to work with our country's technological movers and shakers." 





FEATURES

# Rural Vitalization

Concept by China Pictorial

A large field of canola flowers in Chongqing in south-western China. The rural vitalization strategy manifests China's ambition to promote rural development with Chinese characteristics. VCG



# Strategy in China



The rural vitalization strategy, first proposed in the report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has become the focus of the Central Rural Work Conference. The conference discussed major policies for the strategy and formulated concrete measures for “socialist rural vitalization with Chinese characteristics.”

Specifically, innovating systems and mechanisms and strengthening institutional supply provide a strong guarantee for the implementation of the rural vitalization strategy. Deepening agricultural supply-side structural reform is the foundation and adhering to green and ecologically friendly development is the overall direction.

This strategy manifests China’s ambition to push forward rural development with Chinese characteristics. Guided by the new blueprint, the rural vitalization that many have dreamed about is well within sight.



# Road to Rural Vitalization

Text by Li Guoxiang



A provincial-level demonstration field in Wangying Village, Anhui Province. VCG

*After the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed the rural vitalization strategy, the Central Rural Work Conference focused on the methods, targets, guidelines, roadmaps and measures to implement the strategy. Thanks to the strategy, China's countryside is expected to prosper in the new era.*

## Final Target

Issues relating to agriculture, rural areas, and rural people are fundamental to China because they directly concern the country's stability and the people's well-being.

As China has developed, its agriculture, rural areas and living standards of rural residents have constantly improved. Especially since the 18th National Congress of the

Communist Party of China (CPC), China's agriculture has entered a new stage with grain production capacity exceeding 600 million tons per year and new types of agribusiness growing fast. The gap between urban and rural incomes is decreasing. The poverty reduction campaign has achieved tremendous results, helping a vast majority of rural people emerge from absolute poverty.

Additionally, rural infrastructure has been gradually updated, basic social services have improved and the integrated development of rural and urban areas has taken initial shape.

Despite all the progress, China's agriculture and rural areas are still lagging behind. The competitiveness of agriculture is weak, the quality of agricultural products hardly meets public demand, agricultural ecological

function is not fully developed, agricultural efficiency is increasingly difficult to improve and agricultural resources have been overused, which has made sustainable agricultural development especially needed.

Issues related to agriculture, rural areas and rural people reflect China's imbalanced and inadequate development, which is a major part of the principal contradiction facing Chinese society as socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era. In implementing the rural vitalization strategy, the Chinese government must prioritize the development of agriculture and rural areas. To build rural areas with thriving businesses, pleasant living environments, social etiquette and civility, effective governance and prosperity, the Chinese government needs to set up sound systems, mechanisms, and policies for promoting integrated urban-rural development. To solve issues related to agriculture, rural areas and rural people, the government needs to improve reform methods and measures and remove institutional barriers to activate people and the market to make agriculture a promising industry, farming an attracting vocation and rural areas beautiful places.

The rural vitalization strategy will give rise to thriving businesses, which can raise agricultural comparative effectiveness and China's agricultural competitiveness in the world as well as integrated development of primary, secondary and tertiary industries that will compose a prosperous economy in rural areas. Behind villages featuring pleasant living environments, strong social etiquette and widespread civility is effective governance, which is the

key to making a locale attractive enough to draw quality resources and market attention. Improving the living standards of farmers requires creating more avenues for income as well as a strong sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security, so as to give farmers full access to the fruits of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

### Timetable and Roadmap

China is drawing the roadmap for the rural vitalization strategy. Since it was announced at the 19th CPC National Congress, governments at all levels across the country have paced up plans for implementing the strategy. The central government is expected to release wide-reaching action plans and policies, while local governments propose specific measures. The recently concluded Central Rural Work Conference stressed the leading role of the rural vitalization strategy and introduced several major projects, plans and measures.

The strategy is consistent with China's "Two Centenary Goals." According to General Secretary Xi Jinping's report at the 19th CPC National Congress, China will finish the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020, see that socialist

modernization is basically realized by 2035, and develop into a great modern socialist country by 2050. The Central Rural Work Conference set up goals accordingly—the strategy should achieve important progress with an institutional framework and policy system formed by 2020, and make "decisive" progress with basic modernization of agriculture and rural areas by 2035, and the rural areas should see all-around vitalization featuring strong agriculture, a beautiful countryside and well-off farmers by 2050.

### Institutional Guarantee

It was stressed at the annual Central Rural Work Conference that efforts must be made to nurture agriculture through industrial development, and use urban development to drive rural development. Agriculture and rural areas must be prioritized in terms of fiscal budget and public services. This is a necessary requirement for building an institutional mechanism of integrated urban-rural development. Thus, the institutional framework and policy system which will be issued by the government in steps are key to vitalizing rural areas.

To implement the rural vitalization strategy, China will advance reform of the rural land system, primarily by improving the system for separating ownership rights, contracting rights and management rights for contracted arable land and keeping rural land contracting practices stable on a long-term basis. The current round of contracts will be extended for another 30 years upon expiration.

These efforts will optimize the rural labor force flow between urban and rural areas, facilitate the integration of small farmers into

August 1, 2018: A villager applies for a mortgage loan at a bank. In recent years, Jilin Province has constantly promoted new rural financial services. It has developed a pilot project allowing villagers to mortgage their land to get loans. Xinhua





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A provincial-level demonstration field in Wangying Village, Anhui Province. VCG

modern agricultural development and improve the interest-interweaving mechanism to form a new agricultural management system.

To promote the development of new industries and new business models in rural areas and solve problems in obtaining rural construction lands, China will clear away obstacles in current institutions, improve the arable land requisition-compensation balance system, prioritize necessary land supply for rural vitalization and guarantee the land quotas for agricultural and rural development.

To solve financing problems facing new business entities in the rural economy, China will improve the rural financial system to make it more suitable for the development of agriculture and rural areas, strengthen innovation in financial services and enhance the reach and scope of financial services in rural vitalization.

During the process of deepening reform of the agricultural subsidy system, China will give great support to the usage of subsidy funds to facilitate appropriate-scale agricultural operations for the construction

of a policy-based credit guarantee system, so as to solve problems related to insufficient funding of the rural vitalization strategy. While strengthening the construction of the rural financial credit system, China will expand the scope of financing mortgage for rural industries and support financial institutions to provide loans with agricultural facilities and equipment as mortgages and offer purchase order financing services.


In addition, China will deepen reform of the agricultural insurance system, actively develop policy-based agricultural insurance and expand coverage of agricultural insurance for major risks including natural disasters, costs of new technology applications and market price fluctuation. It aims to improve the compensation of insurance for all costs related to agricultural production and promote the sustainable development of new agricultural management bodies and the appropriate-scale management of rural land.

To implement the rural vitalization strategy, China will also reform and improve the fiscal subsidy

system, and give more support to the structural adjustments, conservation of resources and environment as well as scientific and technological research and development.

China will establish and develop compensation mechanisms for grain production function zones and key agricultural product production protection zones.

Furthermore, China will advance reform of grain storage and pricing systems, minimize the market distorting effect of fiscal subsidies, reduce direct intervention of market regulation and protect producers' benefits to create a fair competition environment for rural industries.

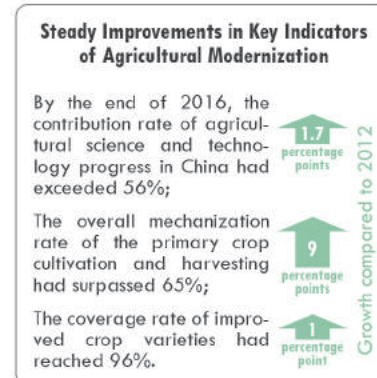
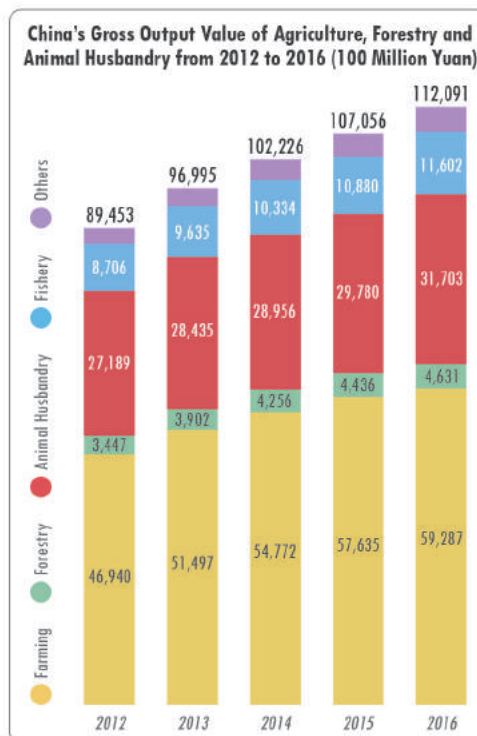
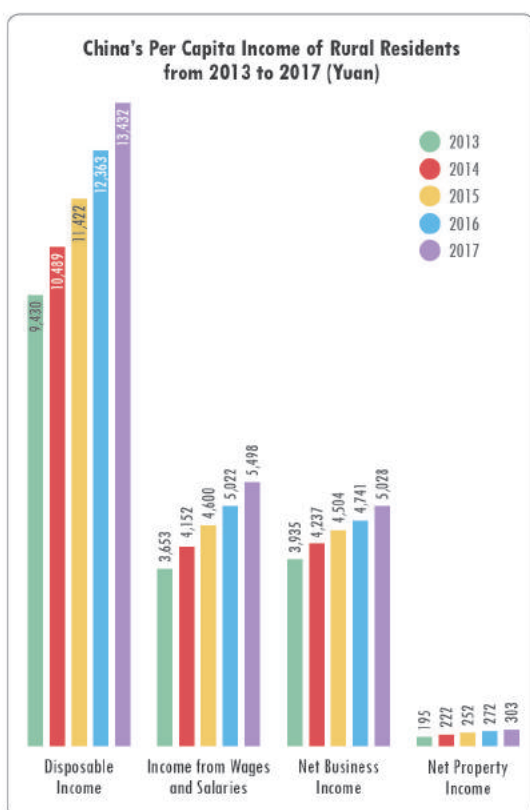
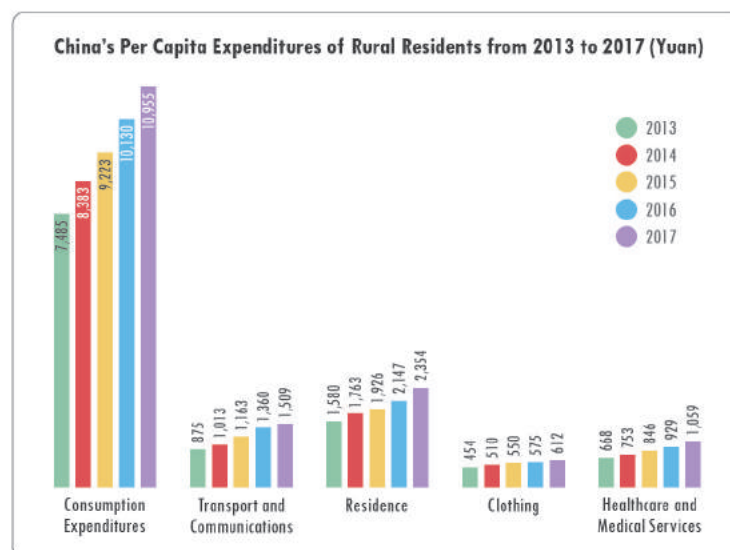
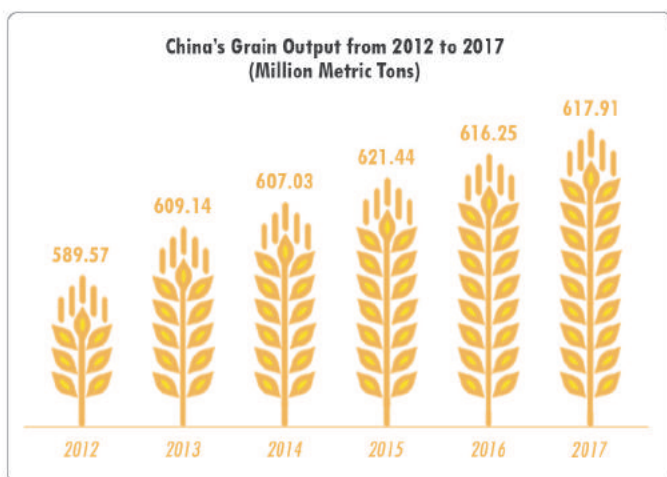
The rural vitalization strategy will further accelerate the integration of urban and rural development, consolidate and improve integrated urban and rural infrastructure, reduce and ultimately eliminate the social basic service gap between urban and rural areas. 

■ The author is a researcher with the Department of Social Development under the Development Research Center of the State Council.

# DATA: FIVE YEARS OF STEADY PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

Edited by Gong Haiying  
Designed by Andrey Maleev

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in November 2012, China has made steady progress in developing agriculture and rural areas under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, injecting increasing vitality into the rural economy and creating a sound situation in rural areas featuring stable agricultural growth, steadily increasing farmers' incomes, a continuously declining poverty rate and considerable improvement in rural conditions and environment. These developments have laid a solid foundation for the construction of a moderately prosperous society in all respects in China's vast rural areas as well as for the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.



Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China



# Deepening Reform of the Rural Land System with Market Power

Text by Dang Guoying

*Advancing the reform of the rural land system is a significant component of the strategy and an important supporting mechanism to accelerate the modernization of the country's agriculture and rural areas.*

“Rural vitalization” was proposed as one of the major strategies of developing a modernized economy in the report delivered to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Advancing the reform of the rural land system is a significant component of the strategy and an important factor in accelerating the modernization of the country's agriculture and rural areas.

Due to issues concerning decision-making rights of rural land use and the direct interests of land users, the reform could make a big impact on many aspects of society.

The reform of the rural land system starts with a change in land use rights. Before the beginning of the reform and opening up in 1978, China adopted a land policy featuring highly centralized farmland ownership and operation. Farming issues such as how to use the land and what and how much to grow were all determined by the production team of the rural people's communes. Farmers had to follow schedules arranged by the production team to conduct work. This system's lack of flexibility and inability to arouse

farmers' enthusiasm caused output to fall far short of the huge food demands of Chinese people at that time.

After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, China began to implement the household contract responsibility system (HRS) and divide property rights of rural farmland into two layers: The land is collectively owned by a rural community, normally a village, and usage rights are held by an individual household that contracts a piece of land from the village. This change has resulted in impressive achievements in grain production.

However, with the rapid development of industrialization and urbanization, many rural residents have migrated to the cities and left their farmland unattended. There has been a growing demand from rural residents to gain the ability to officially transfer their idle farmland.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, under the premise of adhering to the collective ownership of farmland, the CPC Central Committee has managed to separate the contract and management rights of the rural farmland, gradually forming a system for separating

ownership rights, contract rights and management rights for contracted land, which was hailed as another major institutional innovation after the HRS.

The separation of the three types of rights allows farmers to retain the contract right over their land and transfer only the management right if they choose to lease the land to others, which has greatly liberated farmers and improved the rewards of land usage. At present, more than 30 percent of rural households have transferred their contracted land, a total of 31.93 million hectares.

The big change in the rural land





system has activated rural resources, promoted the development of rural enterprises and boosted the rural economy.

However, during the process, new problems have emerged. For example, considerable farmland has been contracted for extensive industrial and commercial use, causing a major loss in arable land.

Furthermore, the farmers' land contract rights are not comprehensive property rights with clear definition. The land contract period is relatively short. In some places, farmers' contracted lands are fragmented and divided into different plots, which is not conducive to land transfer and large-scale agricultural operation.

Additionally, farmers' idle residential land and houses in rural areas are not allowed to be transferred to urban residents, except for farmers without housing in the same village, which has prevented some farmers from reaping benefit from their residential land.

When he presided over a symposium on rural reform in 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, called for more to be done to advance rural reform, with

the core work to properly address the relationship between farmers and land.

To solve problems that have long plagued farmers, agricultural operation and industrial integration, the report delivered by Xi to the 19th CPC National Congress announced that rural land contracting practices would remain stable and unchanged on a long-term basis. And the current round of contracts will be extended for another 30 years upon expiration.

This important decision means that the rural land contracting relationship will remain stable for a total of 75 years from the first round of the contract, evidencing the central government's strong determination to protect farmers' land rights and interests.

The report also stressed that China would advance the reform of the rural land system and improve the system for separating ownership rights, contracting rights and management rights for contracted rural land, which is meant to rationally optimize land resources by consolidating the basic rural operation system in such areas.

With improved separation of the three types of rights, more land management rights can be activated. Rural collective economic organizations are provided greater access to properties that can be controlled, and all the people involved in rural land contracting and management have more defined roles to play.

By freeing up management rights such as land transfer, the reform has laid a solid foundation and generated great support for attracting industrial capital to rural areas, improving management efficiency of the farmland and increasing farmers' incomes.


In recent years, the central government has increased efforts towards the farmland system reform. For example, by carrying

out pilot programs for confirmation, registration, and certification of farmers' rights to their contracted land, it aims to protect farmers' land rights, facilitate land transfer, promote large-scale agricultural operations and improve the efficiency of the agricultural economy.

By the end of September 2017, the land area that completed right confirmation had reached a total of 72 million hectares in China, accounting for 80 percent of the land area specified in the second round of the contract.

In addition, the central government has chosen 33 regions to carry out trial reforms on rural land requisition, marketization of rural collective land designated for commercial construction and the system for managing rural residential land, aiming to expand the land management rights of rural collectives and improve farmers' earnings from their contracted land. Through these efforts, the government will end the monopoly on the supply of rural construction land, step by step.

Furthermore, the government will also gradually abolish excessive restrictions on rural households' rights to their residential land by allowing urban residents with capital to cooperate with farmers to expand utilization of farmers' residential land and houses, improving the market value of farmers' assets.

More than 16.7 million hectares of residential land can be found in China's rural areas. By making optimal use of the regulatory role of market mechanisms, the new policy will ensure that land is used more effectively. 



November 6, 2017: Farmers harvest rice with agricultural machinery in Qidong City, Jiangsu Province. Land transfers have injected new vitality into Qidong's agricultural modernization drive. by Li Cungen/Xinhua

■ The author is a research fellow of the Rural Development Institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).



# Awakening Sleeping Rural Assets

## Innovative Development of the Collective Economy in Kunshan

Text by Yan Jing and Tang Xu

Photographs courtesy of the Publicity Department of Kunshan Municipal Party Committee

*The city of Kunshan in Jiangsu Province in eastern China has actively explored strategies to awaken sleeping rural assets and raise collective economic organizations to the same level as other market entities.*

**I**nvigorating idle assets and collective property rights in rural areas is an essential component of China's rural vitalization strategy. Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, pointed out in his report to the 19th CPC National Congress that China "will press ahead with reform of the rural collective property rights system, safeguard the property rights and interests of rural people, and strengthen the collective economy." Methods to awaken sleeping rural assets and give equal status to collective economic organizations with other market entities are being explored in regions across the country.

In recent years, the city of Kunshan in eastern China's Jiangsu Province has made unremitting efforts to promote new rural collective economic reform, revitalize rural collective assets through market-oriented means and innovate the mechanism for collective assets operation and protection. By doing so, it has injected new momentum and vitality into agricultural production. By formulating and implementing targeted

policies, Kunshan has enabled local farmers to enjoy greater benefits from the entire industrial chain through rural collective economic reform.

### Changyun Village: Developing Modern Farms

"Take a look at the agricultural fields under my management," grins Yu Jiaming. "Each kilogram of rice we produce can be sold for 40 yuan." A contracted professional farmer in Changyun Village, Kunshan's Jinxi Town, Yu manages 20 hectares of paddy fields.

Changyun Village has 40 contracted farmers like Yu. They are nicknamed "Rice CEOs." According to contracts, the output of the paddy fields they manage must exceed 300 kilograms per *mu* (0.067 hectares), and contracted farmers are eligible for bonuses of 10 percent of the value of rice above the production quota. This method contracts farmland to professional farmers who have advantageous expertise and enthusiasm for farming.

"You wouldn't see so many well-cultivated rice fields here a few years ago," asserts Yu.





Back then, local farmers often converted their farmland into ponds to farm fish and shrimp because they were more profitable.

In 2012, Changyun Village decided to form a land stock cooperative adopting market-oriented collective economic operation mechanism. Villagers joined the cooperative by restoring fish ponds to farmland. By doing so, the village's paddy fields were bumped up to more than 2,000 *mu*. The village also established a modern collective farm featuring integrated rice sowing and harvesting and contracted it to professional farmers.

According to Yu Quanyuan, director of the Economic Service Center of Jinxi Town, villagers collect rental payments and dividends from the collective farm. From 2012 to 2016, per capita annual income of local villagers increased from 21,000 yuan (US\$3,260) to

31,000 yuan (US\$4,820), and professional farmers' annual salaries rose from an average of 40,000 (US\$6,220) to 50,000 yuan (US\$7,770).

### **Zhangpu Town: Building Industrial Parks**

Mr. Wang, a native of Kunshan's Zhangpu Town, rides an electric bicycle to his workplace at the Kunshan German Industrial Park every work day. "Many natives used to work outside as migrant workers in the past," he recalls. "Since the industrial park was completed, many returned to find jobs here so that they can live together with their families."

Previously, small factories and workshops could be found in almost every village of Zhangpu Town. As increasing numbers of villagers left to work in cities,

Farmers in Changyun Village work in paddy fields. In 2012, Changyun Village established a land stock cooperative, and local farmers became shareholders with their croplands as investments. By doing so, the village's paddy fields were bumped up to more than 2,000 *mu*.





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many of those factories and workshops closed. In 2012, the government of Zhangpu Town decided to reorganize surviving village factories into Kunshan Lepu Qiangcun Investment and Development Co., Ltd., with the purpose of revitalizing idle assets of the 20 villages under its jurisdiction.

“The 20 villages took stakes in the company with their funds and assets, and villagers became shareholders,” explains General Manager Fan Qingmin. Each year, those villagers can earn dividends of about 10 percent of their investment amounts. Since its inception, the company has integrated agriculture, industry and real estate and promoted industrialized animal husbandry, not only revitalizing idle funds and assets held by villages but also increasing residents’ incomes and improving the employment rate.

Quantification of collective assets is a new strategy taken by Kunshan to promote rural property rights reform in recent years. A village’s assets, including land, factories and other fixed assets, are appraised and then transferred to shares, enabling every villager to become a shareholder. In 2016, Yang Shuiming, a native of Jinhua Village, Zhangpu Town, and his family earned dividends totaling 13,000 yuan (US\$2,060) from the community where they live. “As a shareholder, I take more initiative at work,” Yang says.

### **Zhudian Village: Distinctive Rural Tourism**

How can we empower small agrotourism businesses to achieve capital appreciation by making rural collective economic development



A bird's-eye view of Zhudian Village in Kunshan City, Jiangsu Province. By converting old kilns into profit-making collective assets, the village has set a good example for Kunshan to revitalize rural collective assets.





Zhudian Village in Jinxi Town of Kunshan City, Jiangsu Province has preserved the site of some ancient kilns. Local villagers restored the disused brick and tile kilns to create the Zhudian Kiln Culture Museum, complete with hands-on production, themed classes and even a hotel. The distinctive museum is set off by myriad other natural landscapes in Jinxi Town. The picture on the left shows the Zhudian Kiln Culture Museum, and on the right is a family hotel in Zhudian Village.


an opportunity? Kunshan has encouraged villages where conditions permit to develop rural tourism together, blazing a new trail for them to revitalize collective assets.

Many villages in Kunshan boast traditional residences with white walls and black-tiled roofs. Such residences look beautiful, but still don't generate strong attraction for tourists because they are so common in the region. Making the dwellings distinctive and special has become the goal of many Kunshan villages hoping to develop rural tourism.

Zhudian Village in southwestern Jinxi Town has preserved the site of some ancient kilns. Local villagers restored the disused brick and tile kilns to create the Zhudian Kiln Culture Museum, complete with hands-on production, themed classes, and even a hotel. The distinctive museum is set off by myriad other natural landscapes in Jinxi Town.

By converting old kilns into profit-making collective assets, Zhudian set a good example for Kunshan to revitalize rural collective

assets. "Kiln tourism pools the power of formerly sparse agrotourism businesses, not only expanding the industrial chain but also helping farmers increase their incomes," notes Zhu Yanlei from the Publicity Division of Jinxi Town.

The success of the Zhudian Kiln Culture Museum has worked like a shot of adrenaline for Zhudian Village and at the same time consolidated Kunshan's confidence in developing collective rural tourism. "The new collective economy is characterized by explicit boundaries between various participants and clearly defined collective property rights, which help foster win-win results," illustrates Chen Luyong, head of Kunshan Municipal Commission of Rural Affairs. To further deepen rural reform and ensure more farmers benefit from development achievements, Kunshan is committed to promoting different measures of political and economic reforms in all villages under its jurisdiction to tap greater rural collective assets. 



# Enhancing Agricultural Quality and Efficiency through Reform

Text by Zheng Fengtian

*China's agriculture requires a quality revolution. Only that will solidify effective agricultural products supply to meet the demands of social development.*

How should China carry out the agricultural supply-side structural reform to create an efficient supply of agricultural products? The answer lies in the quality of agricultural products. China's agriculture requires a quality revolution. Only that will solidify effective agricultural products supply to meet the demands of social development.

China's agricultural production must transform from the previous mode of only pursuing yield increases to a mode featuring moderately prosperous agriculture which sets higher requirements on product quality, food security, health, and ecological protection, so as to meet Chinese consumers' growing demand for quality agricultural products. Achieving this goal not only requires structural adjustment of agriculture and changes in production modes, but also the remodeling of the entire industrial chain from source to circulation.

By 2020, China will become a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Consumption habits of the Chinese people will greatly contrast the times when only basic needs such as food and clothing were satisfied. They will attach greater importance to food quality, health, security and environmental protection.

For decades, China's agricultural

production has been quantity-oriented. The country's annual agricultural statistical indicators are mainly based on grain yields, and high-quality agricultural products are scarce. Several major factors influence this phenomenon.

From the angle of production, although China is home to a great number of farmers, they don't possess strong negotiation abilities in the purchasing process. Intermediaries do not raise acquisition prices for agricultural products which use less fertilizers and pesticides. From the angle of sales, the current industrial chain for China's agricultural products is not complete. Producers have no idea of where their products go or who ultimately consumes them. Similarly, consumers don't know exactly who produced the agricultural products they purchased. Trust is hard to build between producers and consumers, which makes improvements in quality and yield of agricultural products difficult. Agricultural products turned out in large numbers but of poor quality were easily accepted by consumers when they barely had enough to eat and wear, but they hardly meet the requirements of consumers who already lead fairly well-off lives.

To improve the quality of China's agricultural products and meet the upgraded demands of an increasing number of





consumers, the entire industrial chain needs to be reshaped from the bottom up.


First, a diversification strategy should be employed in seed breeding. Increasing yields should no longer be the major goal of seed breeding. Varieties aiming for higher quality should be promoted and utilized. At present, the popularization of agricultural product varieties places too much emphasis on yield increases, which knocks out high-quality but lower-yield varieties. While this practice may be profitable for producers, it causes enormous losses to consumers.

Second, the entire industrial chain should be simplified and restructured, and integrated production should be employed. There are now too many links from production to consumption, which makes quality control and management a mere formality. When facing grain procurement from big companies, farmers don't have any negotiation power and can only rely on quantity. And it is impossible for these enterprises to properly check the quality of products from each farmer. As a result, the companies and farmers don't trust each other, which further hurts product quality.

December 15, 2017:  
Locals buy vegetables  
at Yunguang Market in  
Shanghai. Contrasting  
traditional vegetable  
markets, Yunguang  
features uniform identi-  
fiers, management and  
brand, enhancing the  
experience for consum-  
ers. VCG



Solutions for such problems should include: Big companies should establish agricultural bases to set up a closer relationship with local farmers or employ integrated production. Farmers can join up to establish cooperatives and set up their own brands. Through integration of the primary, secondary, and tertiary industries, production won't be limited to previous categories and the industrial chain will be extended. Farmers should establish their own sales terminals and make direct connections between production and sales. Such strategies will not only increase the incomes of farmers, but give consumers the ability to trace the origins of the agricultural products they purchased and get trustworthy food.

In the past few years, with China's confirmation and certification of land rights in rural areas, rural land property rights have become clearer, and the cumulative area of land transferred in the country exceeds 30 percent of the total. Various new business entities, including big growers, family farms, farming cooperatives, and leading agricultural enterprises, are developing fast. These new business entities bring higher demands for many things such as capital turnover and mortgage guarantee, which requires preferential policies for farmers as well as supportive fiscal and monetary policies. In the future, China's agricultural development should take measures such as carrying out scale operation, reducing unnecessary use of fertilizers and pesticides and offering social services. Such measures are expected to reduce production costs, enhance agricultural quality and efficiency, and improve the weak links in agricultural supply such as agricultural infrastructure construction, thus rebalancing the agricultural product structure now plaguing the Chinese market. 

■ The author is a professor with the School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development at Beijing-based Renmin University of China. He has long been committed to research on issues of agriculture, rural development and farmers.

# Agricultural Supply-side Structural Reform in Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner

Text by Jin Zhi

Photographs courtesy of the Publicity Department of Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner unless otherwise credited

*Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner, one of the only three ethnic autonomous banners in China, has carried out agricultural supply-side structural reform, increasing farmers' income and promoting agricultural modernization.*



Established in 1958, Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner under the administration of Hulunbuir City of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, is one of the only three ethnic autonomous banners in China. Located in one of the only three black soil areas in the world, the banner is gifted with abundant water resources and fertile land, providing good conditions for agriculture and livestock production.

In the Daur language, “Morin Dawa” means “mountainous region that even fine horses cannot traverse.” Due to inconvenient transportation conditions, the banner cannot be reached by plane or train and remains only accessible by car or bus. It takes five to six hours to reach the nearest major city, Harbin. In the past, poor transportation impeded the development of local agriculture and hindered improvements in the quality of life of local farmers.

At the Central Rural Work Conference held from December 24 to 25, 2015, the Chinese government pledged to take steps to promote “agricultural supply-side structural reform.” Under guidance and with assistance from the government and through efforts of farmers, the reform aims to enhance the quality and output of agricultural products to meet consumers’ demand, thus increasing farmers’ income and promoting agricultural and rural modernization.

In the process of implementing the agricultural supply-side structural reform, the government of Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner appraised its own conditions and placed reform focus in the following areas: First, adjust the structures of planting and livestock production to better meet the demands of consumers and to industrialize both planting and livestock production. Second, build the “internet +

agriculture” mode, establish agricultural cooperatives in various forms, set up online sales platforms, and break restrictions caused by poor transportation conditions. Using the internet and logistics to connect the banner with the outside world, Morin Dawa has improved the quality of its agricultural products and raised local farmers’ income significantly.

Morin Dawa is the base for the

Tian Yuanshan, head of the agricultural bureau of Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner. During its agricultural supply-side structural reform drive, the banner government has placed reform focus on the industrialization of both planting and livestock production as well as building the “internet + agriculture” mode.







August 16, 2016: Morin Dawa Mountain in the banner. One of the only three black soil areas in the world, the banner is gifted with abundant water resources and fertile land, providing optimal conditions for agriculture and livestock production. Xinhua

pork industry, the breeding base for Simmental cattle and a hub for husbandry of fine-wool sheep and the poultry industry in Hulunbuir. “The focus of our structural reform is to combine farming and animal husbandry, and make farming serve the animal husbandry,” explains Tian Yuanshan, head of the agricultural bureau of Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner. In 2017, the banner began to replace its grain crops with fodder cultivation and planted around 5,333 hectares of feed grains. Additionally, the banner planted more than 20,000 hectares of annual and perennial forage grasses. Herding on the grasslands was no longer the only avenue, and dry-lot feeding and semi-confinement feeding began to emerge. Now, the banner is home to 777 large-scale livestock farms and 54 villages specializing in livestock production. Through the efforts of these livestock farms and farmers,

the banner’s development in animal husbandry has reached a new level and its ecological protection is much stronger.

The banner is dubbed the center of soybeans thanks to its annual cultivation area of around 266,667 hectares and average annual yield of 600,000 to 750,000 tons. Soybeans produced in the banner were exported to Japan and South Korea. In recent years, facing stiff competition from imported soybeans, locally produced soybeans witnessed a drop in cultivation area and are now plagued by difficulties related to pricing, storage and transit. In 2013, the banner changed its practice of only planting soybeans to be processed into oil and began to promote a new variety of soybeans fit for human consumption. High in protein, soybeans occupy an important place in the Chinese diet. Both soy milk for breakfast and tofu at lunch and dinner require

soybeans. The banner now specializes in producing soybeans suitable for making food and processes the soybeans to be used as raw materials for health products such as lecithin and isoflavones.

In 2017, the banner proposed the “internet + agriculture” strategy, which is also known as smart agriculture. One of the projects under its framework involved soybean cultivation. A total of 67 farming households from 38 villages, most of whom were poverty-stricken, were organized by the government to plant organic soybeans, mung beans, and other beans near their homes. The entire production process remained under the guidance and supervision of 38 agro-technicians. To guarantee the quality of these beans, no pesticides or fertilizers were allowed.

Internet technologies are now widely used in the banner. On each piece of land, cameras monitor the entire agricultural production and management process. Through online promotion, some urban residents looking for a better-quality life rent pieces of land from local farmers. They pay the farmers rental in advance and “hire” them to perform plantation and management. After the harvest, they pay farmers fees for their work and receive the yields. Unrented pieces of land return to the management of local agricultural cooperatives.

In 2016, the banner government established an innovation and creativity experience museum to promote and sell its local agricultural and peripheral products, ethnic costumes and jade products, as well as to establish a platform for its household service industry and health industry. The ultimate purpose of establishing the museum is to increase

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incomes of local enterprises and promote employment of poverty-stricken farmers. “Today, we have more than 300 online shops, which have created more than 1,000 jobs,” says Chen Linlin, a government worker responsible for construction of the museum.

In a remote place like Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner, establishing cooperatives and employing the “internet + agriculture” strategy have provided farmers with platforms to sell their products. Furthermore, it has provided locals with new thinking modes, business patterns and lifestyles.

Still relying on agriculture, the banner is home to a number of big growers. Since 2015 when the banner began to implement the “internet + agriculture” strategy, many local agricultural cooperatives were established in succession, including corn, soybean, pork and agricultural machinery cooperatives.

Yue Guiling is chairman of the Xinxingyuan Professional Plantation Cooperative of Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner and president of the banner’s

e-commerce association. The plantation cooperative she operates was established in October 2010 to promote the planting, processing, selling, and storage of soybeans, other beans and side crops. The cooperative now manages a plantation area of 593 hectares and a processing area of more than 8,700 square meters and includes 32 households as members.

With this cooperative as her base, Yue contacted another 12 cooperatives in seven townships and villages of the banner, including a homegrown chicken cooperative, a rice cultivation cooperative and a tobacco plantation cooperative. These cooperatives were united to form a major comprehensive group with products featuring centralized package and branding as well as centralized training of manpower. Products from these cooperatives can be found for sale in the experience museum. Through internet promotion and online orders, products from these cooperatives are now sold all over the country. Now, Yue manages 13 cooperatives, each with a membership of about 30 to 40 farming households. And around 500 farming households have benefited



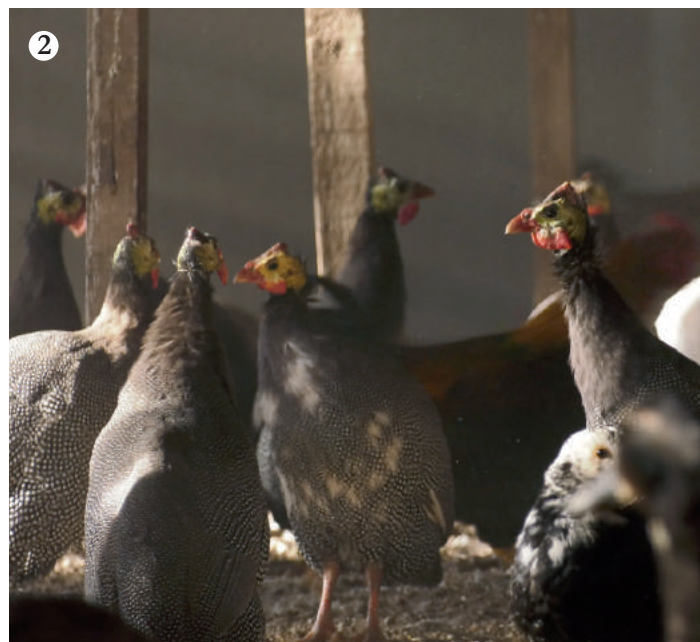
from these cooperatives.

On the “internet + agriculture” strategy, Yue has much to say: “It primarily solves sales problems plaguing agricultural products. In the traditional sales method, many agricultural products are hard to sell at decent prices. If farmers lose money, they quickly lose motivation to continue planting. The new strategy places emphasis on quality. For example, a kilogram of ordinary soybeans generally sells at around four yuan, but a kilogram of top-shelf organic soybeans sells at 12 to 14 yuan. For farmers planting organic soybeans, they can escape poverty in just one year. Considering factors such as subsidies from the government, farmers can enjoy

Yue Guiling (right) discusses the rice sales situation with Liu Dongling, head of a local rice cooperative. Since 2015 when the banner began to implement the “internet + agriculture” strategy, many local agricultural cooperatives were established in succession, including corn, soy, pork and agricultural machinery cooperatives.







① Machineries work in the soybean field in Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banner. The banner is dubbed the “center of soybeans” thanks to its annual cultivation area of around 266,667 hectares and average annual yield of 600,000 to 750,000 tons.

② A local poultry farm. The banner is home to various livestock and poultry farms. Through these large-scale farms, the banner government pushes the development of livestock and poultry industries to a new level and industrialization has been taking shape.


a good income and much higher standard of living.”

Grain production remains the pillar of the banner’s agriculture. The banner has been honored as a major grain producer for 14 consecutive years, and its comprehensive grain productivity increases with each passing year. The banner government has spared no efforts to make these achievements. To solve the farmer shortage caused by the exodus of young people to cities, the local government has encouraged and supported new business entities including big growers, cooperatives, family farms and processing enterprises for agricultural and livestock products. An industrial chain from plantation, breeding,

acquisition, storage, processing to sales has been formed. At present, the banner is home to 972 big growers, each managing more than 33 hectares of plantation areas and altogether cultivating an area of 58,667 hectares. The banner is also home to 621 large livestock farms, each with more than 500 head of livestock which are full grown and ready for slaughter, as well as 2,242 family farms and 2,671 cooperatives.

The banner government also founded a “grain bank.” Grain is collected and stored free of charge, just like money in the bank. Farmers can decide when they want to sell their grains and get the price on the day they choose. Through such practices, farmers can sell most of

their grain at the best market price and maximize their profits.

“The loose production and business model run by each individual household in the past has been replaced by new business entities,” says Tian Yuanshan. “In terms of the planting industry, unified seeding, harvesting and technical guidance and training have lowered the production costs of necessary items such as seeds and pesticides. Unified sales enhance our competitiveness and bargaining power. With the sale prices for our agricultural products raised, farmers’ incomes have increased. In this way, not only has the rural economy been developed, but farmers have been lifted out of poverty and acquired wealth.” 

# Green Vitalization for Rural China

Text by Zhou Hongchun

*To implement China's rural vitalization strategy, a green path for development and the peaceful coexistence of people and nature are essential.*

To implement the rural vitalization strategy in China, a green path for development is essential. The country needs to coordinate systemic governance of mountains, waters, forests, farmland, lakes and grasslands, enhance the supply of ecological products and services, preserve food security and tackle environmental pollution to realize the goals of strong agriculture, beautiful villages and prosperous farmers.

Rural vitalization should be guided by the new development philosophy and enable people to overcome homesickness. Many people have returned to the countryside only to be disappointed by the fact that the beautiful homes in their memories had been polluted away. Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, noted that the people should be able to see green mountains and clear waters, and have hometowns capable of anchoring their nostalgia. He added that we should protect the environment like we protect our eyes and treat the environment like it is our lives. Rural vitalization requires long-term vision based on the current situation. China will follow

the principle of “green mountains and clear waters are invaluable assets,” and promote economic and social development that aligns with environmental protection. Making rural areas more pleasant places to live is a target set by the Central Rural Work Conference, as well as the core driver of the rural vitalization strategy. China should seek development that is for, by and of the people, and make more effective institutional arrangements so that people will more easily sense the gains of joint construction and shared development. This strategy will help development gain more momentum and unite the people along the road to common prosperity.

China's economic prosperity

August 8, 2017: A villager in Henan Province in central China sells lotus seedpods next to a pond. He earns over 10,000 yuan each summer by selling lotus seedpods. His village has been designated as a model village for its beauty and livability. by Li Bo/Xinhua



boosts the sustainable development of its rural areas, both economically and socially. The supply-side structural reform can be promoted by developing agriculture with distinctive features and building brands. Value chains can be extended through the integration of planting, breeding and processing industries. Brand building, industrialization and coordinated development should be enhanced. The principle of developing green and high-quality agriculture should be practiced in agricultural production, product processing and waste recycling. More organic food should be produced. Instead of growth based on quantity, China's agricultural sector should pursue quality and branding, and produce high-quality, healthy and green agricultural products to maintain grain security. Forest economics, ecological tourism and special towns should be developed to benefit rural people. The principal contradiction facing Chinese society is the one between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing need for a better life. Alongside physical wealth and spiritual treasure, more high-quality ecological





November 12, 2017: Villagers pick chrysanthemum flowers at a planting base in Huai'an City, Jiangsu Province. The base covering an area of dozens of hectares is the biggest of its kind in the city. by Li Xiang/Xinhua

products should also be created to satisfy the increasing demands.

Environmental protection is tremendously significant to the rural vitalization strategy. The strategy cannot be implemented at the expense of the environment. To win the battle for blue skies, straw burning should be regulated and small-sized coal ovens with high efficiency and close-to-zero emissions should be promoted in rural areas of northern China where heat is used most in winter. Urban-rural water supply and sewage treatment should be coordinated, and environmentally friendly methods should be used to improve sewage treatment in rural areas. Projects to upgrade restrooms and water facilities should continue to safeguard water safety in the countryside. Waste recycling patterns—classified at the residential level, collected at the village level, transported at the town level and processed at the county level—should be promoted to activate the cycle to minimize waste and generate energy. Environmental law enforcement should be strengthened in rural areas to prevent urban and

industrial pollution from being transferred to the countryside. To achieve sustainable rural vitalization in China, pre-assessment, in-process supervision and appraisal of agricultural production are also required.

The fundamental role the market plays in distributing resources as well as the government's function should both be given full play in rural vitalization. Special funds should be launched to increase investment in environmental protection in rural areas, so sufficient and cost-effective ecological products and services are made available to enterprises when they participate in rural construction. Many benefits can be produced by the system that holds local Party and government leaders accountable for environmental protection and implements compensation in accordance with performance in environmental protection. The system favors common prosperity and prevents problems. It motivates the public and helps increase forest coverage to improve the environment. Advanced applicable technologies and integral renovation should be

utilized and promoted. Performance-driven methods and third-party supervision of pollution prevention and control, as well as post evaluation of construction projects, are needed to minimize the cost of improving the rural environment. Simple language and down-to-earth methods will help increase public awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development. Exchange activities concerning environmental protection should be conducted to motivate villagers to take part in environmental governance by performing tasks such as garbage classification, helping them gain a sense of pride and honor in constructing beautiful villages. Many tiny drops make a mighty ocean. Everyone's efforts will inject vitality into the construction of the beautiful countryside as rural China walks the green path of development.

Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, Chinese people are working together, and the rural vitalization strategy is fostering thriving businesses, pleasant living environments, improved social etiquette, effective governance and prosperity in rural areas of China. Hopefully, agriculture will become a promising industry, farming will become an attractive profession, and rural areas will transform into appealing places to live and work. 

The author is a researcher with the Department of Social Development under the Development Research Center of the State Council.



# Water and Soil Conservation

## The Heart of Green Agricultural Development

Text by Yu Fawen

*Water and soil conservation should be given top priority to narrow the gap causing the shortage of water and soil resources necessary to produce safe agricultural products.*



July 4, 2017: Beautiful mountains and waters in a village in Zhejiang Province in southeastern China. Water and soil conservation is the heart of green agricultural development. by Zhang Cheng/Xinhua

China's agriculture has seized enormous achievements over the past four decades since its reform and opening up began in the late 1970s. Meanwhile, the ecology has paid a heavy price, which is influencing the safety of agricultural products.

The report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) pointed out that "as socialism with Chinese

characteristics enters a new era, the principal contradiction facing Chinese society has evolved. We now face a contradiction between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life." The glaring imbalance in agriculture is embodied by the people's growing demand for safe, quality farm produce and insufficient supply. As a result, green development of agriculture is a major solution to the principal



April 28, 2017: Drones spray pesticides onto wheat fields in a village in Shandong Province. The eastern coastal province is actively developing ecologically friendly and highly efficient agriculture. by Zhao Yuguo/Xinhua



social contradiction of the new era.

It is worth noting that water and soil conservation remains the core and foundation of green agricultural development. It is not just an issue related to agricultural development and food safety, but also a strategic problem concerning the healthy development of the Chinese people.


To realize the green development of agriculture and ensure the quality of agricultural products, the top priority must be ensuring that agriculture is grown with enough high-quality water and soil. It is no secret that China's per capita water resource measures only a fourth of the world average, and that the available water resources are scattered unevenly in the country. Rapid industrialization and urbanization have devoured a growing share of quality water and soil. Agricultural production has continuously pushed the limits on the supply of quality water and soil.

China's development in agriculture has overcome the shortage of farm produce. Presently, agriculture should be adjusted according to the concept of green development and the fundamental goal should be providing 1.3 billion Chinese people with healthy, safe and quality agricultural products. Water and soil conservation should be given top priority to narrow the gap causing the shortage of water and soil resources necessary to produce safe agricultural products.

First, soil quality needs to be monitored and improved. The strictest regulations on soil conservation should be implemented. Meanwhile, multiple effective measures should

be adopted to improve the quality of soil.

Second, water pollution must be prevented, and clean water conserved. Suitable water conservation technology should be promoted to increase the efficiency of irrigation in the agricultural industry. At the same time, comprehensive measures should be taken to control the total amount of water usage and the efficiency of irrigation and meet the agricultural needs for quality water in accordance with the *Opinions of the State Council on Applying the Strictest Water Resources Control System* released in 2012. Moreover, law enforcement tasked with environment protection should be reinforced and strictly prevent factories from polluting water.

Third, diversified mechanisms for ecological compensation should be established for the conservation of water and soil resources. According to the 2016 reform plan jointly released by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance on ecology-oriented agricultural subsidies as well as the requirements of China's "No.1 Central Document" in 2017, compensation should cover all areas conducive to the safety of agricultural products such as resources, industrial development and waste recycling, to improve mechanisms for ecological compensation, conserve water and soil for agricultural use and comprehensively develop agriculture in a green manner. 

The author is director of the department for research on the agricultural environment and ecological economy of the Rural Development Institute under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

# Lin'an A Model for Eco-Villages

Text by Guan Guangqian and Zhang Xue

*Lin'an has built 120 eco-villages, making it a leader in developing an ecological countryside.*

As an old saying goes, Lin'an District in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, features “ninety percent mountains, five percent rivers and five percent farmland.” The lush vegetation covering Tianmu Mountain and the streams feeding Taihu Lake bestow on the district in northwestern Zhejiang stunning natural scenery.

In recent years, by following the idea that “clear waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets,” Lin'an has become committed to fostering a new green environment, green industry, green communities and green culture. It has invested 3.6 billion yuan (US\$562 million) to build 120 eco-villages.

The district has earned prizes and titles such as “China Exemplary Living Environment Award,” one of the “Top 10 Livable Eco-Cities” and one of the “Most Beautiful Towns in China,” injecting even greater momentum into the development of eco-tourism and eco-agriculture.

## Caring for the Environment

In 2017, Lin'an unveiled Zhejiang







Zhinan Village in Taihuyuan Town, Lin'an District, Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province. Lin'an is home to the source of Taihu Lake and the Qiantang River as well as Tianmu Mountain and Qingliang Peak national nature reserves, with forest coverage rate of 78.3 percent. VCG



## ● FEATURES

Province's first *Scenic Village Standards*, which addressed household sewage treatment, garbage classification and road construction. The district planned to build 30 rural scenic resorts over the next few years to drive the upgrade of the beautiful countryside.

Last year, Lin'an invested 450 million yuan (US\$70 million) to build 10 scenic villages including Yueliangqiao Village at the foot of Tianmu Mountain. The village is taking on a whole new look: Renovated residences with white walls and black-tiled roofs are complemented by idyllic 3D murals, giving the village an elegant ambiance. Dilapidated houses were demolished and converted into gardens, public toilets, grocery stores, open-air tea bars and cinemas. Once hopeless-looking street corners were transformed with flower beds encircled by cobblestones, and the 70-hectare bamboo grove along the stream outside the village will soon receive an injection of flowers and fruits.

Lin'an is home to the source of Taihu Lake, so water resource conservation is a key component of the district's ecological protection. A local enterprise devoted to

environmental improvement, Lin'an Danjing Environmental Engineering Co., Ltd. has carried out extensive technical cooperation with Zhejiang Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, Northeastern University and other research institutions to develop a rural sewage treatment regulation platform utilizing wireless Internet of Things (IoT) technology, which can achieve remote monitoring of the operation and performance of sewage treatment systems.

Huanhu Village in Banqiao Town set up the district's first village-level smart garbage classification and collection station. Again utilizing IoT technology, the station can remotely monitor all discharge of classified garbage and automatically award points to villagers who properly implement garbage classification. Most of the station's monitoring equipment has already been installed.

### A Place Like Home

A stream snakes around craggy rocks in a tranquil valley near the source of Taihu Lake in Linmu, Lin'an District. Baisha Village, known as the "first village for rural tourism in China," is hidden deep in the valley.

According to Wei Jin, former head of Lin'an Commission of Rural Affairs, from "renting mountainous land" in the 1980s and "selling forest products" in the 1990s to "developing rural tourism" in the 21st century, Baisha Village is the trendsetter of rural development in Lin'an.

Lin'an now has a National Recreational Tourist Village, 13 provincial-level Tourist Villages, 17 municipal-level Tourist Villages and 39 district-level Tourist Villages, collectively offering a total of 27,000 beds. Tourists can taste rural food, stay in authentic village residences and experience real rural lifestyles.

Baisha Village is far from the only scenic village in Lin'an. In Sunjia Village of Changhua Town, one is likely to encounter



A flower planting base in Zhinan Village in Taihuyuan Town, Lin'an District, Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province. VCG



an American in his fifties bicycling along the mountain path. His name is Bob, and he works in Hangzhou. Two years ago, he first discovered the village during a bicycling trip. At the first sight, its murmuring streams, lush woods, and residences with white walls and red-titled roofs tugged at his heart. “This beautiful village is identical to my hometown,” Bob says. “I stopped pedaling and had to stay.”

The following weekend, Bob came back to the village. He spent 200,000 yuan (US\$31,000) renting a house from a local villager and settled there.

### “Internet+” Eco-villages

As the district works hard to promote the eco-economy and revitalize rural development, enhancing agricultural efficiency and increasing farmers’ income have become a new mission for Lin’an in the process of building a beautiful countryside in the new era.

In recent years, invigorating agricultural development with any available technology has become the focus of the district’s strategy for developing the rural economy.

Alongside ecological and circular agriculture demonstration projects, Lin’an has fostered 845 new business entities such as family farms and rural family hotels. In 2016, the district earned 13.82 billion yuan (US\$2.15 billion) from tourism, an increase of 139.4 percent compared to 2011. Many villagers throughout Lin’an began selling forest products such as hickory nuts online. So far, six towns and 22 villages in the district are known for operating online shops on Taobao.com, China’s leading e-commerce site, ranking Lin’an among “China’s Top 100 E-commerce Counties/Districts” for three consecutive years. In 2017, its rural areas realized online sales volume totaling 3 billion yuan (US\$468 million).

Bainiu Village set a shining example for rural e-commerce development in Lin’an. In 2012, the village became one of the first to be cited as a “Taobao Village” due to its startling online sales of nuts. In 2014, Wang Yang, vice premier of the State Council of China, visited




Dubbed the “home of hickory nuts,” Lin’an boasts a 500-year history of planting and processing hickory. During harvest season in September, local villagers dry hickory nuts on the ground. VCG

the village during an inspection tour. Over years, the village has established itself as a legend of rural e-commerce.

Many other villages in Lin’an have followed in Bainiu’s footsteps, selling their agricultural products online, including sweet potatoes from Tianmu Mountain, fresh bamboo shoots at the source of Taihu Lake, and alpine vegetables in Gaohong area. These products are so popular with online shoppers that the supply falls far short of the explosive demand. For instance, sweet potatoes from Lin’an still sell out rapidly every time they’re offered despite a tripled price.

Wang Yunjie, a native of Ziyong Village in the district’s Yuqian Town, is a forefather of the sweet potato business in Lin’an. In 2002, he contracted 0.6 hectares of farmland from his village to grow sweet potatoes. Over the following 15 years, he has created a miracle by expanding his sweet potato planting business to 12 provinces, with an annual output totaling 1,000 tons.

“Over the last five years, the price of sweet potatoes has surged with each passing year,” Wang grins. “Even dealers themselves ask me to raise the wholesale prices. Currently, about half of the sweet potatoes I grow are sold online.” Even a conservative estimate would tally at least 1,000 online sweet potato sellers in Lin’an, according to Wang. 



PEOPLE

# Chinese Communists Leading Reform and Opening Up

Text by Ruan Yuan

## Editor's Note:

The year 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of China's implementation of reform and opening-up policy. During the past four decades, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation—it has stood up, grown rich and become strong. Riding the tide of the times, the Chinese people are committed to emancipating the mind and pushing forward the reform and opening up, in a bid to seek a better life. From this issue onward, *China Pictorial* will publish articles on representative figures during the country's 40-year-long reform and opening-up process in its "People" column to help trace the country's great journey over the past 40 years for readers around the world.



## Starting with Special Economic Zones

For China, the late 1970s was a crucial period of transition. At the time, the "cultural revolution" (1966-1976), which had plagued China for 10 years, finally came to an end. Where to go next and how China's socialist cause would move forward after such a bumpy road were major problems facing the country and the CPC.

In late 1978, the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee was held. The plenary session unanimously endorsed a policy decision that shifted emphasis of the Party's work to socialist modernization in the next year, ushering in a new historic period for China's reform, opening up and socialist modernization. Deng Xiaoping, who became known as the chief architect of China's economic reform and opening up, led Chinese Communists in new explorations

in building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

In 1979, Xi Zhongxun, then governor of Guangdong Province, proposed during the Central Working Conference that because Guangdong is the origin of so many overseas Chinese people and is adjacent to Hong Kong and Macao, it should capitalize on its advantages and carry out economic and technical exchange with the outside world. He further requested that the CPC Central Committee delegate some power to Guangdong and let the province take a first step forward. At the same meeting, Fujian Province also requested to set up an export-oriented manufacturing base in its coastal city Xiamen. Deng Xiaoping expressed support and approved such requests. Soon, the CPC Central Committee and China's State Council decided that Guangdong and Fujian provinces would carry out special

policies and flexible measures in foreign trade activities. And four pilot special export zones — Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou in Guangdong, and Xiamen in Fujian — were established. In May 1980, these four special export zones became "special economic zones."

As the special economic zones were established, a group of Chinese Communists with open minds and bravery carried out reform and became pioneers of the country's reform and opening up. In Guangdong, as early as late 1978, Yuan Geng, an early proponent of China's reform and opening up and then vice chairman of the China Merchants Group in Hong Kong, created the Shekou Industrial Zone. The industrial zone covered 2.14 square kilometers in what was formerly known as Bao'an County, in today's Nanshan District of Shenzhen. It was the first export







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From January to February 1992, 88-year-old Deng Xiaoping toured southern Chinese cities, including Wuchang, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shanghai, and delivered important speeches. During the tour, he criticized those who harbored doubts about China's reform and opening up and reiterated the importance of economic development. CFB

Shekou street on May 23, 1979 before development (left) vs. the skyscrapers of the Shekou Industrial Zone on October 10, 2008. Xinhua

processing industrial zone on the Chinese mainland and inspired Chinese Communists to carry out a series of reforms with world-changing significance, including those on housing, personnel systems and income distribution. In Fujian, then Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee Xiang Nan, who was

dubbed an “explorer and pioneer of Fujian’s reform and opening up,” began reforming enterprises, commercial distribution and commodities pricing, electrifying urban reform in the province. Xiang further proposed streamlining administration and delegating more power to enterprises, which was





quite progressive and innovative for that time. Later in 1983, the CPC Central Committee decided to grant Hainan Island preferential economic policies. In April 1988, Hainan, which was formerly administered as part of Guangdong, became a separate province and the largest special economic zone in China.

The reform and opening up began snowballing throughout China, and gradually spread from coastal areas to other parts of the country. Generally speaking, China's opening up went through four phases. The first was establishing the special economic zones, followed by opening of coastal port cities and setting up coastal open economic zones. By the 1990s, China opened cities along rivers and borders as well as inland cities. By 1993, the country had formed a comprehensive pattern for opening up through persistent efforts.

### Freeing the Mind

Although the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central

Committee decided to shift the emphasis of the Party's work to socialist modernization and special economic zones were already established in the country in the early 1980s, the choice between a market economy and a planned economy remained a highly controversial issue from the late 1970s to the late 1980s. During that period, many people still considered the market economy and political restructuring representative of capitalism.

In 1979, when meeting with American guests, Deng Xiaoping presented the idea that socialism could promote its own market economy. In 1992, Deng toured some southern Chinese provinces, calling for greater courage and renewed efforts in reform. "A planned economy or a market economy is not the essential difference between socialism and capitalism," he remarked. This view creatively cleared some of the long-standing doubts in China about the market economy's relationship to capitalism, and

stressed the importance of economic development.

The idea of "emancipating minds and seeking truth from facts," put forward by Chinese Communists, is not only exhibited at the macro level, but also at the micro level of people's everyday lives. In the late 1970s, when Xi Zhongxun had just arrived in Guangdong to take his post, sneaking into Hong Kong had become a common practice locally. Through research and investigation, he learned that farmers of the Chinese mainland, separated from their Hong Kong neighbors by only the Shenzhen River, were earning annual per capita income of 134 yuan, while that figure on the other side of the river was 13,000 Hong Kong dollars. "We should take the blame," Xi lamented. "We failed to help our people lead quality lives or formulate good policies to protect their interests." He cut to the heart of the matter and pointed out that the key to solving illegal immigration was to develop the local economy and improve



1992: Investors swarm to purchase stock subscription certificates in Shenzhen. With the implementation of the reform and opening-up policies, great changes have been happening throughout China. by Lan Shuitian



people's living standards. Yuan Geng condensed his understanding of reform and opening up into "time" and "efficiency." He coined one of the most famous slogans of the era: "Time is money; efficiency is life." When the planned economy was still on many minds, the introduction of views of the market economy deeply influenced and impacted Chinese society at that time.

By the turn of the 21st century, the Chinese economy had developed by leaps and bounds, and great changes were happening throughout the country. Chinese people, who had once only cared about politics and class struggle during the early stage of reform and opening up, shifted focus to creating economic returns and social wealth. This change, a result of social and economic progress, also brought about materialism and hedonism. Chinese Communists began attaching greater importance to freeing the mind and placing greater emphasis on promoting spiritual civilization. During the past 40 years, emancipating minds and reform and opening up worked hand-in-hand. Emancipation of minds, theoretical innovation and reform breakthroughs have become crucial steps in a process that has become the inevitable choice for China to embark on each new journey during the past four decades.

### Developing the Economy

Beginning with developing the economy and emancipating minds, China has achieved much over the past 40 years. Some analysts believe that during the 1980s and 1990s, when the world political situation was chaotic and turbulent, China, under the CPC leadership, spared no efforts in its reform and opening up, reaping



Young people enjoy free karaoke in Sihai Park, Shekou, Shenzhen. With the rapid development of the economy, Chinese people began to lead more diverse lives after China's reform and opening up.  
by Zhang Xinmin

fruitful results. China's gradual reform process formed a sharp contrast to the "shock therapy" recommended to the former Soviet Union by the West.

The time for China to open its door and embrace the world was right for the international situation and environment as well. At that time, China started to break the ice with the United States and actively sought to become integrated as a constructive member of the international community. In 1980, China regained its lawful seats in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in succession. A series of positive results from the worldwide economic revolution beginning in the 1970s, such as computerization and the emergence of container ships, were also introduced into China through reform and opening up.

Facing fierce international competition in the new millennium, China began to place more

emphasis on gaining knowledge and technologies and building its own international enterprises. And China's success in reform and opening up is not limited to economics. At present, the country is injecting positive energy into global economic growth and embarking on a new journey to build a new type of international relations and a community of shared future for mankind.

In 1978, under the leadership of the CPC, China started unprecedented reform, the most successful case for national development in human history. From then on, China gradually made its way to the center of the world stage. Without the right choices made by Chinese Communists at the moment that determined China's fate in the contemporary era, as well as their commitment to these choices in the years to come, China's achievements today would not have been possible. 

# Heroic Military Doctor

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## Cai Ruikang

Text by Duan Wei and Wang Lin

Photographs courtesy of the General Hospital of the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army unless otherwise credited

Now a doctor with more than half century of experience, Cai Ruikang has grown from a medical student into a leading dermatologist who deftly combines Chinese and Western medical methods. by Guo Shasha



**A**lthough he is scheduled to retire in 2012, Cai Ruikang has been reluctant to leave his position. The 83-year-old doctor still serves outpatients on two half-day shifts every week at the General Hospital of the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), in Beijing. He is even recovering from a recent surgery to replace part of his left femur.

When asked about his decades of service as a physician, Cai declared, "A military doctor working for the people is not only a doctor, but also a soldier. I am happy to devote my life's work to my country."

### Mission First

In the 1950s, Cai was recruited by his current hospital after graduating from the Fourth Military Medical University. He once treated a student pilot in his 20s suffering from pemphigus, a skin disease involving uncomfortable blisters. The disease is easily treated today but was a tough challenge at that time. Infected by *pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the patient's body festered, emitting an unpleasant smell. Cai personally cared for him for more than half a year, and even shared a room with him some nights to promptly address any unexpected changes in his symptoms. However, ultimately the student pilot still passed away.

The case overwhelmed Cai with sorrow and regret that persist to this day. "After that,

I stress that my students do everything they can to save their patients even if there is little hope."

In the late 1970s, conflict frequently broke out on China's southern borders. The humid climate and harsh surroundings brought skin illness such as "festering crotch" that plagued Chinese soldiers. Assigned to tackle the emergency at the frontlines, Cai and his colleagues had to navigate minefields to reach scattered companies and collect herbs in the mountains.

"No one could tell where the landmines were," Cai said. "We carefully blazed our own paths, watched out for each other and vigilantly listened for enemy gunshots. During those days, I had no idea whether I would survive until lunch time when I set out from the hospital in the morning."

Within a year, Cai marched to the frontlines eight times and treated soldiers hiding in more than 100 caves along the trenches. Through painstaking investigation and medical experiments, Cai and his colleague Ma Fuxian pinpointed

the cause of "festering crotch": scrotum ringworm and scrotum candida, carried and passed by brown rats. Cai suggested that hospital headquarters send a special team to exterminate the rats at frontlines. He also researched and formulated medication to optimally treat the disease. The "number one cream" that Cai developed for external use considerably lowered the morbidity for



Cai Ruikang (right) treated soldiers in caves along the trenches at the frontlines after conflict broke out on China's southern borders in the late 1970s.



In 2008, Cai Ruikang and his colleagues treated more than 10,000 soldiers and locals in over 20 earthquake-hit towns and villages in southwestern China's Sichuan Province.

common skin diseases among the troops. Eventually, the “festering crotch” situation was completely under control.

On May 12, 2008, a devastating earthquake hit Wenchuan in southwestern China’s Sichuan Province. Cai, who was hospitalized with pneumonia at the time, showed great concern about the disaster. When he learned that his employer planned to send a medical team to the earthquake-stricken areas, Cai, who had barely recovered, convinced his family and the hospital to let him go along.

“The people are suffering, and I can help,” he declared. For 20 days, Cai and his colleagues visited over 20 earthquake-hit towns and villages, treating more than 10,000 patients. They also authored and disseminated booklets to help soldiers and locals with instructions on how to prevent and control skin diseases.

### Doctor’s Goodwill

From 1956 to 1957, Cai studied at the Institute of Dermatology at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, previously known as the Central Institute of Dermatology and Venereology. He noticed that some experts who had studied abroad still felt limited in tackling skin diseases, and some Western drugs carried significant side effects. The institute frequently consulted Zhao Bingnan, a master of traditional Chinese medicine, when they encountered tough cases. Cai found that several Chinese herbs frequently prescribed by Zhao showed a good success rate in helping patients recover and their bodies functioned better in many ways. Although he had studied Western medicine in college, Cai decided to learn from Zhao to combine Chinese and Western medical methods.

In 1976, Cai began studying under Zhu Renkang, another master of traditional Chinese medicine. He attended a year-long training class sponsored by the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau. Zhu’s prescriptions were methodical and standardized. Cai



A family photo of Cai Ruikang (right), 1976.

assisted him in writing prescriptions and composed a dozen books of notes, making further progress in learning traditional Chinese medicine.

Learning from those masters not only cultivated Cai’s skills but also fostered his morality as he witnessed how each doctor respected and cared for poor patients. Cai declared, “From the masters, I’ve learned the essence of traditional Chinese medicine.”

Over the past five decades, Cai has continued to combine Western and Chinese methods to innovate medical treatment and produce better results. In 1980, 45-year-old Cai became the first director of the newly founded dermatology department of the hospital. By then, coal tar was commonly used to treat stubborn skin diseases. Though some benefits were clear, the treatment repelled most patients due to its dark color and bad smell. It is hard to absorb and prevents the



skin from breathing. Cai made up his mind to change the procedure.

Four doctors, a one-story house and an iron pot were all the department had at their disposal. With the help of his wife Liu Xinguo, a pharmacist, Cai began to conduct extensive research even in such poor conditions. Cai moved into a laboratory in August of that hot summer. He subsisted mostly on steamed buns and barely slept, but devoted all his energy to research. The department began renovating its usage of Chinese herbs with Western methods and testing standards. They even tested medicines on their own bodies to record how long it took to penetrate the skin and be absorbed to ensure the safety of the medicines.

Cai's arms and legs suffered considerably from the experiments performed on his own skin. Liu groaned that he was virtually risking his own life. However, his extreme commitment eventually paid off. He produced a yellow compound with a slight fragrance that was approved by regulatory authorities. Clinical trials proved its effectiveness in treating psoriasis, chronic eczema and neurodermatitis.

Cai believes that doctors should leverage the advantages of both Chinese and Western medicine. Within eight years, he built the department into the premier center of the PLA for treatment and medication for skin diseases. The team developed nine new devices to treat skin diseases including a liquid nitrogen mist sprayer, and three of them were submitted for patents. A work station was named after Cai in 2010, at which he fostered two specialist doctors, three doctoral students and five postgraduates. The station also published over 40 academic papers.

Cai considers a patient's psychological status a key factor in any treatment. "Traditional Chinese medicine suggests that emotion can cure as well as cause illness," Cai explains. "Western medicine factors in mental health alongside physical health. We should strengthen patients' minds by building confidence in their ability to win the battle




Over the past five decades, Cai Ruikang has continued to combine Western and Chinese methods to innovate medical treatment and formulate medications.

against illness."

In his eyes, every patient should be treated equally. Cai also believes that a doctor should not dwell too much on his own gains and losses. "The patient's trouble is the doctor's trouble, but you have to move on and persevere."

Heavily influenced by his teachers, Cai has developed a special first lesson for new students. Forgoing anything on curing diseases or using equipment, he stresses how to care for patients.

"A doctor needs to determine the optimal method to cure a disease from multiple choices—the fastest, most effective and most cost-effective," Cai said. "Without excellent medical skills, one cannot cure a disease. Without good character, one cannot become a qualified doctor." 



# Keeping the Skies Blue

Text by Chong Yatu

On January 9, 2017, a BBC report on Beijing's improved air quality this winter quoted Angelica Yang, a postgraduate student who has been living in Beijing for more than five years: "Last year you barely saw any faces on the streets—they were all covered up—but this year fewer people are wearing masks."

Yang's words correlated with statistics issued by China's Ministry of Environmental Protection: In 2017, the concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) dropped by one third. Beijing's yearly average concentration of PM2.5 met an ambitious target set in 2013—it measured 58 micrograms per cubic meter, a 20.5-percent decrease year-on-year and a 35.6-percent decrease from 2013's 90 micrograms per cubic meter.

Smog plagued many places across the country, but the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region suffered the most, an area covering 190,000

square kilometers with considerable heavy industry and 110 million residents. The monthly report from China's Ministry of Environmental Protection showed that some cities in the area remained stuck at the bottom of the list in terms of air quality, especially in winter, at which time the concentration of PM2.5 could reach as high as 200 micrograms per cubic meter. However, in the winter of 2017, the air quality in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region sharply improved.

## Coal-to-Electric Switching

Despite January's subzero temperatures, Yuan Chunming's home in Qilindian Village of Baoding City, Hebei Province, stayed warm, and his potted plants were flourishing. "Now, we use electricity for the heating instead of coal," Yuan announced excitedly. "It's more convenient to simply flip the heat on, and it's also much cleaner. We only pay 25 yuan per square meter."







At the main heating station of Qilindian Village, rows of air energy compressors are hard at work. “Our village chose electricity to replace coal,” explained Liu Junfeng, Party secretary of the village. “We built three heating stations in the village, which are funded and maintained by companies. Villagers just have to pay the heating fees.”

Qilindian Village changed its heating method, which provides a glimpse into the process of transforming the energy structure in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

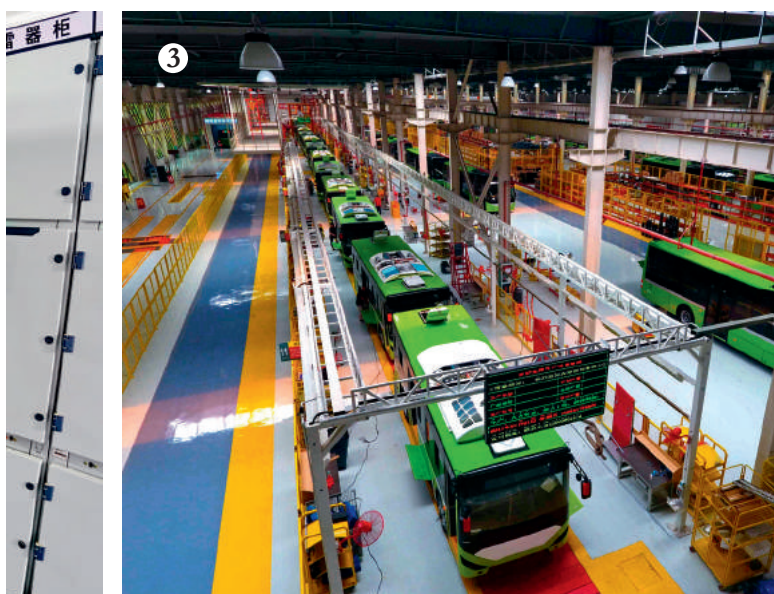
During bitter winters, many northern areas in China used to fire small coal stoves for heating. In 2016, the Ministry of Environmental Protection pointed out that China still depended primarily on fossil fuels like coal, which resulted in heavy air pollution in winter. For instance, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region accounts for only 7.2 percent of China’s land area, but was responsible for 33 percent of the nation’s coal burning that year, emitting about 30 percent of the total national pollutant.

Since 2014, the Chinese government has invested huge sums in “coal-to-electricity” and “coal-to-natural gas” projects with an eye on decreasing pollution by using cleaner energy.

Statistics from the National Development and Reform Commission showed that over the past three years, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region has pumped 40 billion yuan into the projects, which benefit 4.7 million households.

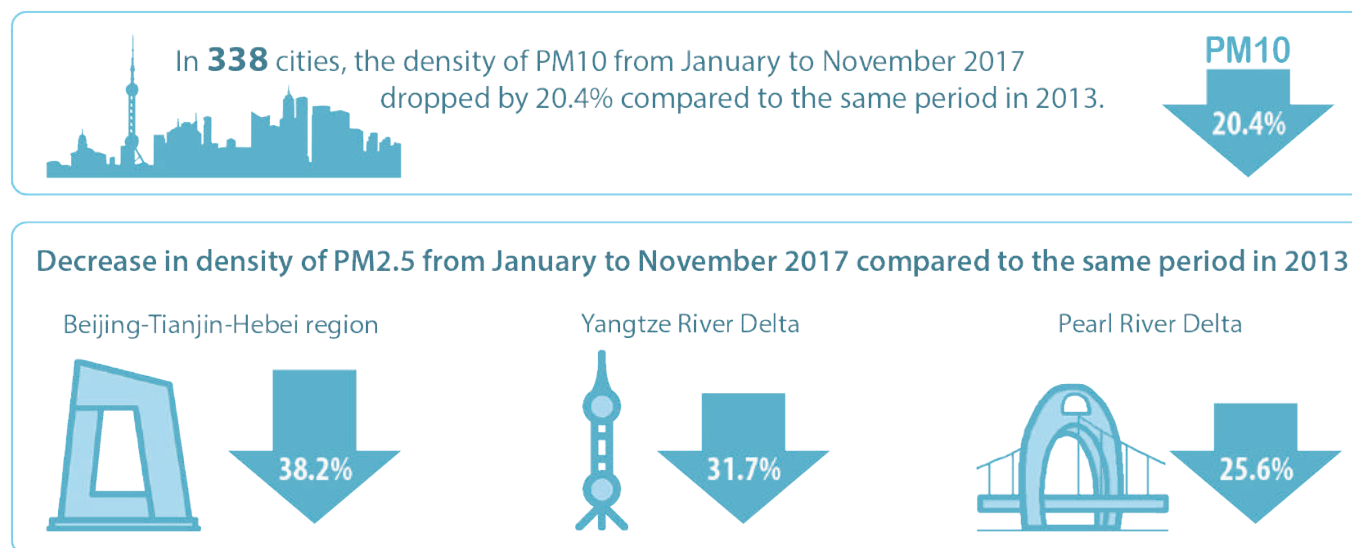
### Law-based Pollution Control

Previously, companies or individuals who obeyed the environmental protection law usually spent more money than those who



- ① Beijing saw much better air quality in the winter of 2017. VCG
- ② Rows of machines to power an electric heating system. Xinhua
- ③ New energy vehicles are widely used in China. Xinhua

## ● PEOPLE



Source: China's Ministry of Environmental Protection; designed by Andrey Maleev

ignored it. To comply with the law, businesses had to pay to upgrade their equipment, while violators would just pay a fine. In 2015, the newly amended Environmental Protection Law was enacted, which made the fine a daily payment and raised the cost 20 times over without specifying a maximum.

Additionally, the Chinese government set up a supervision mechanism to dispatch a team to various locales to investigate environmental issues of public interest and complaints. Within two years, the team has visited all provinces of the country, received 135,000 public petitions and fined 29,000 companies a total of 1.43 billion yuan. Also, the team investigated 1,518 cases, detained 1,527 suspects and placed liability on 18,000 persons.

Authorities also focused on enterprises with high energy consumption and high emissions. From October 1 to 3, 2017, Chinese Minister of Environmental Protection Li Ganjie led a team to

Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong and Henan provinces to investigate shutting down, suspending or curtailing production of heavily polluting factories.

Two months before then, China's Ministry of Environmental Protection issued an action plan requiring 28 cities in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and nearby areas to shut down or suspend highly polluting enterprises in winter. And during times of peak pollution, all relevant factories were required to shift their production schedules, so as to reduce discharge of pollutants.

A series of specific measures were formulated and implemented. Henan Province issued an action plan that verified the specific times and requirements for shifting peak production for 3,060 enterprises in six industries including iron, steel, coking, casting and construction materials. The plan stipulated that iron and steel industries needed to limit production according to their levels of pollution.

“Actually, limiting the production

of polluting industries is painful for both the companies and local governments, but they must keep their eyes on the prize,” remarked chief scientist Chai Fahe of the

Many places in northern China that used coal stoves for heating are switching to electric heating. Xinhua







In the past, as soon as the winter heating was switched on, the smog arrived. VCG

Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences. “In a long run, these high-polluting and outdated enterprises need to be weeded out. This is the key point.” According to him, while eliminating outdated capacity, local governments should divert more clean energy to production and improve their abilities to manage pollution. In industries like iron, steel, cement, glass, petro-chemistry, chemistry and power plants, innovation in coal-fired boilers and breakthroughs in ultra-low emissions technology are on the horizon.

### Industrial Structure Adjustment


While promoting clean energy and controlling polluting enterprises, anti-smog centers and environmental protection police have emerged across the country to strengthen enforcement. According to Chai,

over the past five years, China has set up a pollution management system featuring coordinated efforts from departments at all levels and from all walks of life, which has contributed to the great achievement China made in smog control.

However, using clean energy and shutting down or limiting high-polluting production are just quick fixes. The long-term solution is to adjust economic structure and optimize industrial layout. At the recent Central Economic Work Conference, the central government declared that China will continue to improve its environment by decreasing the discharge of major pollutants, adjusting industrial structure and eliminating outdated productivity as well as strengthening energy conservation and performance evaluations.

Also, the conference determined that environmentally friendly

growth is an important facet of high-quality development and emphasized that a large-scale project would be launched to increase land greening and attract investments from state-owned enterprises, private companies, foreign enterprises, social organizations, groups and individuals. The conference pledged to foster enterprises engaged in ecological protection and recovery.

“Switching energy resources and cutting pollution are aimed directly at the contamination sources,” said Chai. “The key is to adjust industrial structure, which is the current trend of China’s development. In the past, we pursued a fast and no-nonsense model of development, which was decided by the times. But in the future, we will need high-quality, balanced and sustainable growth, which is high in demand during this new phase of development.” 





SOCIETY

# Animal-free C i r c u s

Text by Li Zhuoxi





Wild animals like tigers and lions frequently cause human injuries in circuses around the world. VCG



In years past, spectators would see dancing dogs, drumming bears, tigers jumping through flaming rings and bowing lions at China International Circus Festival. However, at the end of 2017, organizers of the event cancelled all animal performances.

Animal shows and the folk artists who presented them date back to a long time ago in China. In 2008, the traditional circus was listed in the second group of national intangible heritage.

But in recent years, circus performances have become increasingly controversial. Even the Guangzhou Zoo, which is known for its circus animals, announced an end to animal performances, breaking up with the circus after 24 years of cooperation.

Criticism of circus performances is nothing new. According to incomplete statistics, 389 cities and 36 countries around the world have banned or restricted animal performances.

When China International Circus Festival removed animal shows, the move was met with widespread acclaim. Now the question remains: How can the conventional circus industry survive?

### Circus: Fading Golden Age

The golden age for the circus in China stretched through the 1970s and 1980s. During those decades, most of the country's zoos offered their own animal performances. Chimpanzees and elephants living in the zoos would perform small tricks like wire walking and jumping through rings. In the 1990s, private acrobatics teams and circus groups played a big part in offering animal performances and earned profits from ticket sales.

In July 2010, the State Forestry Administration of China issued a notice prohibiting direct contact between wild animals and the audience as well as shows involving animal abuse. In October of the same year, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development began requiring

that zoos and parks across the country stop all animal shows. In July 2013, the ministry reiterated the same requirement.

Xu Liang, a trainer with a private circus in Beijing, hails from Yongqiao District, Suzhou City, Anhui Province, a place known as the "home of Chinese circus."

"I used to operate a circus with my two sons," says Xu. "As policies changed, we lost most of our business and didn't have enough money to continue. So I just sold my circus and came to Beijing to get a job."

Xu Liang is not alone. After the enactment of new policies, many in Xu's hometown quit the industry—some went bankrupt and others shifted to other trades. The construction of a circus stadium in Nanjing, on which seven or eight million yuan had already been spent, was put on hold.

"In 2008 when the circus became a national intangible heritage, we thought the second 'golden age' of the industry was coming," Xu sighed. "Who could have seen this coming?"

The private circus that employed Xu is also having a difficult time. Because of stricter regulations, performing anywhere requires complicated approvals and many procedures such as certificates for wild animal training and performance as well as transportation licenses specifying the cities through which it passes and the variety and number of animals. The licenses need stamps from the origin and destination's forestry departments, which are checked all the way to the destination.

"We prefer to cooperate with zoos because the animals don't travel well," says Xu.

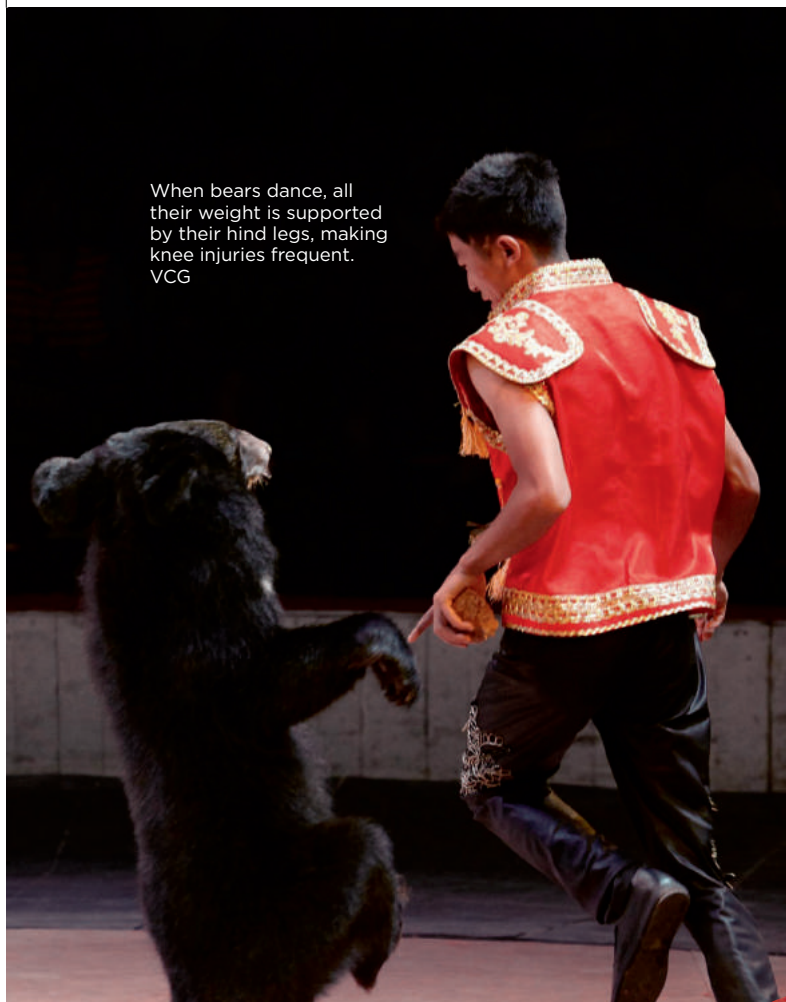
### Zoos: Conflicting Ideas

Xu's hope for continued cooperation with zoos is likely a pipe dream. In 2010 and 2012, when China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development prepared the documents to ban animal performances, the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens was invited to join discussions.

"We weren't intentionally trying to force out the circus," says Yu Zeying, vice



When bears dance, all their weight is supported by their hind legs, making knee injuries frequent. VCG



FEBRUARY · 2018



January 22, 2015: A circus tiger at the International Circus Festival of Massy, France. VCG

An elephant show. VCG





secretary-general of the association. “We just have conflicting ideas about proper treatment of animals.”

“The earliest zoos just caught wild animals and showed them to urban people,” Yu continues. “They rarely cared about the animals’ well-being.” But great changes have taken place in the zoological park industry.

“Originally, zoos often focused on introducing the animals’ characteristics and behaviors,” Yu adds. “But today, more emphasis is given to the protection of their habitats and the related biodiversity. Urban zoos have become institutions for animal protection and research. Due to limited space and the need to display the animals, zoos can’t let them roam free, but we try to put them in a living environment similar to the wild.”

### NGOs and Animal Welfare

Circuses have long been accused of animal abuse. But Xu and his colleagues claim innocence. They believe that animal performances are realized through affectionate interaction between the trainer and animals, which encourages animals to demonstrate their

innate characteristics and abilities. They believe such performances are an important method for humans to learn about animals and coexist with them peacefully.

But animal conservationists believe animal shows always violate animal welfare.

Internationally, five “freedoms” outline five aspects for the welfare of animals in captivity: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury and disease, freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from fear and distress.

Different voices from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also had some say. Some believe all animal shows should be banned, but others are merely against introducing wild animals into circus performances. Moderates have no problem with livestock and poultry in circuses because they think that domesticated animals have the natural ability to cooperate with humans and are easily tamed. But it is much more difficult to domesticate a wild animal. Animals from farms are bred rather than domesticated. Wild circus animals such as bears, tigers and elephants frequently cause human injuries in places around the world, evidencing their innate wildness.

It is far more difficult to train wild animals because they have little interest in obeying humans. The “programs” they undergo often betray their nature and demand intensive training. After long-term training, such wild animals behave unnaturally. For example, a chimpanzee can be trained to grin, which is naturally a sign of fear. So training impacts the chimpanzee’s acquisition of normal social skills, which will cause it to be rejected by others even if it is sent back to a population in captivity.

Hu Chunmei, head of the Performing Animals Rescue Program, says animal shows don’t even help the audience learn more about animals, because such animals are not behaving naturally anyway. “Actually,



Bush cats in Africa. VCG





nowadays the accessibility of online videos presents a much better way to understand, protect and learn about animals.”

### A Different Path for Circuses

It is an indisputable fact that the circus industry is declining.

The trade is facing greater pressure and protest from animal protection organizations as well as more complicated regulations and stricter approval procedures. And it is losing customers because the public is finding a wider array of choices for entertainment. Additionally, improving animal welfare requires better living conditions, which increases operating costs significantly.

Previously, the circus animals were walking a tightrope and today it is the circus industry itself.

The Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circus and the Big Apple Circus in the United

States and the Cirque du Soleil in Canada were the three most famous circuses in the world.

In November 2016, the 39-year-old Big Apple Circus declared bankruptcy. On May 21, 2017, the 146-year-old Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey Circus followed suit.

But, the Cirque du Soleil has survived and thrived. In December 2017 when the circus toured at Beijing's Chaoyang Park, tickets sold out lightning fast. Touting “without animals, we can still stun the world,” the circus employs high-tech stage art design and world-class acrobats to win popularity around the world. This group has certainly trailblazed a new road for the circus, and it is completely animal-free.

The 4th China International Circus Festival and the Guangzhou Zoo removed animal performances, which hopefully represents a new start rather than a decline for the circus industry. 

August 12, 2017:  
Volunteers from  
Xishuangbanna  
National Nature Re-  
serve Administration  
and Wild Elephant  
Valley in Yunnan  
Province pose for  
a picture during a  
campaign to protect  
elephants. VCG





# The Plural Meaning of Happiness

Graphic Novel *The Rabbi's Cat* and Translator Zhang Yi

Text by Li Xia

After a rabbi's cat swallows the talkative family parrot whole, the cat miraculously begins speaking like a human.

The graphic novel *The Rabbi's Cat* by Joann Sfar begins in Algeria during the 1920s. At that time, as a French colony, Algeria developed into an impressively diverse intersection of Jewish, Arab and French cultures.

In the novel, a widowed rabbi named Sfar, with the same family name as the author, lives with his beautiful daughter Zlabya and the cat. Representative of wisdom in Judaism, a rabbi teaches the Torah to the local congregation after receiving orthodox Jewish education which covered secular law as well as holy scriptures. In the novel, the rabbi is respected in his community and observes Jewish doctrines rigorously. Zlabya doesn't go out often. She takes good care of the cat, and in turn the cat considers the girl the source of its happiness. The small family lives a quiet life.

## A Talking Cat

Everything changes when the cat begins to talk.

Excerpts from the Chinese version of *The Rabbi's Cat*. Author Joann Sfar has created a seemingly loose yet attractive and fascinating comics style, which is considered a salute to the writings of Jean de la Fontaine, a renowned French fabulist of the 17th century.





Zlabya immediately suspects that the talking cat will say unbelievable things, and she is right: The cat's first words are a lie. It tells the rabbi that the parrot went out on urgent business and that the family shouldn't delay dinner on its behalf. Upon discovering the truth, the rabbi gets angry and warns the cat that languages should be used to tell the truth. However, the cat rebuts that any living being with the ability to speak can speak anything at their will, even falsehoods.

The cat incessantly tells unnecessary lies and speaks the truth only when it hurts people. It claims that compared to God, his beloved mistress is far more real. It ridicules the rabbi's mentor, declaring that his faith in God is only an illusion created to reassure himself. It mocks his owner's respect for the elder rabbi, asserting that he only wants someone to consult in his old age. The big-mouthed cat hopes to see how the world changes thanks to its speaking out so much "truth."

Along with the ability to talk, the cat obtains human consciousness and begins to be plagued by the same worries as humans do. Zhang Yi, translator of the Chinese version of the novel, explains this change. She believes that precisely because of the development of language, humans began identifying the passage of time. Only through spoken language can physical time be expressed through the usage of "present" tense. And only with the existence of the present can the past and future be comprehended. Because of the connection between language and time, the disillusioned talking cat loses its faith. Even though the human lifespan is six times longer than that of cats, the cat fears that

its beloved Zlabya will eventually abandon the pet to wed and have her own kids. Because of this rationale, in the cat's eyes, Zlabya falls from the goddess status to become just a normal human. Its opinion of Zlabya further deteriorates to the point of considering her an illusion, which upsets and depresses the cat greatly.

With its ability to understand human language, the talking cat gains the ability to search for knowledge, explore human nature and make rational judgments towards faith,

which gifts it with understanding and newfound respect for life. With the ability to learn knowledge and wisdom, as well as engage in philosophical thinking, the cat ultimately finds a new happiness that transcends ordinary life.

### The Rabbi's Two Worlds

Thanks to his decades of work and study, the rabbi wields wisdom and lives a life grounded in honesty, sincerity and kindness, while observing Jewish doctrines explicitly.

Zhang Yi, a Ph.D. in French literature at Peking University and translator of the Chinese version of *The Rabbi's Cat*. The Chinese version was published in 2016 after being edited into two volumes from the original four-volume French version. The novel has received an impressive 9.4 out of 10 rating on Douban.com, a major Chinese ratings and reviews website. by Qin Bin





Zhang Yi (center) discusses *The Rabbi's Cat* with Chinese readers. Although it is a graphic novel, Zhang believes that the work offers plenty of food for thought. by Qin Bin

He informs the cat that Western thought is a draining, predatory and destructive machine. He declares that the Western world's desire to solve every problem on Earth with a single stroke is just a trap. Meanwhile, the rabbi must pass a French language examination sanctioned by the French board of Jewish education to become a senior rabbi.

Zlabya falls in love with a dashing young French rabbi from Paris and they make plans to get married. The cat and the rabbi accompany the couple to France to meet the young man's family. Author Joann Sfar named this part of story *The Exodus*. The rabbi becomes particularly depressed in Paris: Prayer books in synagogues are all locked up, so they won't be stolen. People pray too

quietly and solemnly, contrasting with the liveliness and Sabbath singing he enjoyed in Algiers. On a Sabbath, the young French rabbi rings a doorbell, which is forbidden on the Sabbath in orthodox Judaism. The rabbi encounters a Jew who eats pork frequently, smokes on the Sabbath and never prays. Even more depressing to the rabbi is the fact that such laissez-faire Jews seem to live as happily as he did back home. The rabbi ultimately posits that if people can be happy without observing the commandments, there must be no point in following so many rules that complicate life. This is also a key dilemma for Joann Sfar, as the author explores the role of religion in the modern society with warmth, wisdom and humor.

*The Exodus* section clearly

parallels Jewish history as well as the dynamic between Algeria and its colonizer, France. By taking the French language examination, the rabbi witnesses and experiences challenges facing the Judaism in modern Parisian society. Zlabya's uneasiness in modern France illustrates the conflict between traditional society and modern civilization. The varied pursuits of happiness by people from different cultures and faiths are exhibited through the intertwining stories.

### Cultural Diversity: A Natural Setting for Powerful Tales


The setting of the graphic novel is not limited to Algiers. It takes readers to other parts of North



Africa, Egypt, on a boat across the Red Sea to Paris and finally on a journey to Jerusalem. In each locale, the talking cat, the rabbi and his daughter encounter many other interesting characters.

Transitions of space, collisions of diverse cultures and clashes between ideas are the soil and atmosphere filling out the world created by Joann Sfar, just as they flavored the author's childhood. Before he became a comics artist, Sfar majored in philosophy at Nice Sophia Antipolis University in southern France. His background in philosophy, his Jewish heritage and his identity as a French citizen of Algerian origin gifted him with the ability to create a work with such deep and rich messages. From the perspective of human civilization, it is such diversity that has provided the environment for the growth of universal human happiness.

By utilizing the perspective of an animal, *The Rabbi's Cat* seamlessly injects discussions of philosophical issues into ordinary everyday stories. Kids may be drawn to the fantastic colors and lines, while adults can spot the intersection and fusion of diverse cultures. Various concepts from different civilizations, such as tradition and modernity, Jewish culture and European intellectual history, and the connections between the East and the West, are re-examined and re-defined from the cat's perspective and astute philosophy. This graphic novel broadens readers' vision of the world, expands perceptions of the diversity of civilizations and develops understanding on the plural meaning of happiness.

By giving a mischievous cat a human mind, Joann Sfar appeals to readers from all over the world. 

## Ideas of Zhang Yi, Translator of the Chinese Version of *The Rabbi's Cat*

Many first-time readers of *The Rabbi's Cat* are stunned by the work's rough and casual style. Sfar's comics style is by no means "beautiful" in the traditional sense. At first glance, the lines are messy, and the pictures seem hastily drawn. Every page is divided into six frames of the same size, seemingly without any focus. This random style is a salute to the writings of Jean de la Fontaine, a renowned French fabulist of the 17th century. The deceptively simple and natural style is hard to forget, and cuts deep into human nature to reach lofty artistic levels.

Although *The Rabbi's Cat* is a graphic novel, Joann Sfar treats the story as a serious literary work. He hopes the book provides readers with plenty of food for thought while promoting more flexibility in rigid value systems.

Sfar's creations are heavily influenced by Swiss linguist and semiotician Ferdinand de Saussure, whose ideas laid a foundation for many significant developments in both linguistics and semiology in the 20th century. Linguistic activity is unique to human beings and plays a big role in constructing reality and building connections between man and the world. The plot device of using a talking cat to set the story in motion is well worth pondering over. The author starts with a linguistic problem. He first questions the effectiveness of language, which makes his readers think about language itself and eventually realize the greatest significance of language: It distinguishes human beings from animals.

It was an absolute pleasure for me to translate this work, and I find the novel fascinating, especially in how it discusses the meaning of happiness. The rabbi gained happiness through his faith. Readers get a sense of the power of faith through the rabbi, because his faith has enriched his life so much. However, if we look at the rabbi from a secular perspective, his life is very typical. While already quite a capable man, he still must pass an arbitrary qualification exam to get a promotion. He accepts this demand even though it is so absurd. He also gets into trouble, which is likely to touch different readers in different ways. The author uses the rabbi to explore how various people find inner peace and come to terms with their own individual realities.





# A Realer World Through Art

## Dialogue with Artist Yang Zhiling

Text by Qiao Zhengqi

*A member of the China Artists Association, Yang Zhiling is China's national first-grade artist and a renowned contemporary Chinese water color painter. He is also a part-time professor at the Shenzhen-based Graduate School of Tsinghua University, a visiting professor at Shenzhen University and artistic advisor to the World Alliance of Low Carbon Cities. Yang's representative works include the Colorful Tibetan Buddhism series, Environmental Protection series, Volcano series, Lights series and My Place Is Not as Good as Yours.*

Yang Zhiling was born in northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in 1954. When he was a child, he loved Chinese picture storybooks. Legends such as the generals of the Yang family, the great general Yue Fei, and the Magical Brush left a deep impression on him and sowed the seeds of patriotism in his heart. Since childhood, Yang has maintained the goal of praising virtue and punishing vice with his brush. After graduating from the Art Department of Inner Mongolia Normal University, Yang continued studying diligently to broaden his mind. Later, he committed to depicting human lives and destiny in his paintings.

Although Yang majored in art, he has hardly made a living out of it. Instead, he transformed his rich life experience into a unique inner artistic experience. This "aloofness" from art has proved quite valuable, enabling Yang not only to maintain sober observations on the latest artistic trends, but also to gain insight into the role

of art in social progress from a broader perspective.

Yang's work starkly contrasts many contemporary paintings. Presently, the art of painting is dominated by the image of economic logic and pursues commercial interests. Many artists, both from China and beyond, are devoted to establishing their own artistic languages. However, Yang refuses to symbolize himself, which makes his art stand out. At the same time, through Yang's work, audience can catch sight of ordinary people's thoughts and changes in the natural environment.

Yang seldom paints ordinary scenes of life, but strives to exhibit a sense of aliveness and of the people's well-being. No matter what creative form he adopts for a particular piece, Yang injects his own emotion, feelings, and views on people and the whole world into the work. For example, in his *Death of Birds*, high above in the sky, flying birds suddenly die. This shocking moment showcases the deformed expansion of human





*Death of Birds* from Yang's *Environmental Protection* series. In the painting, high above in the sky, flying birds suddenly die. Starkly contrasting both traditional Chinese paintings of flowers and birds and Western paintings of birds, this piece emphasizes physical conceptions including gravitational acceleration and vertical falling. Using the falling moment of birds, Yang exhibits the eternal theme of inner unity between man and nature, and the theme of realizing sustainable social development on the premise of environmental protection.

desire, referring to the destructive blows on some species caused by devastated forest vegetation. Using the moment that dead birds fall from the sky, Yang exhibits the eternal theme of the inherent struggle between man and nature.

A decade of artistic experience has gifted Yang with three effective weapons: observation, sketching and experimentation. "Observation" encompasses his study of society. "Sketching" refers to his study of nature. "Experimentation" requires application of scientific principles. On this basis, Yang created new theories and practices including "personified landscape," "idea reflection," and "promoting the good." He believes that even before spectators see a painting, the ideas expressed in the work are already rooted in their

subconsciousness. So, when viewers face the piece, the painting quickly activates ideas already embedded in their subconsciousness. Yang hopes to touch the public with art and arouse awareness for promoting social

development. These artistic theories are fully embodied in Yang's works. His works strive to be socially, intellectually and experimentally significant, gifting the audience with a sample of deep and rich philosophies.

Not long ago, *China Pictorial* (CP) sat down with Yang to discuss his works and his understanding of art.



Art should startle the viewer into thinking about the meaning of life. ”

Spanish art master Antoni Tàpies (1923-2012)

**CP: In your opinion, how many stages can your works be divided into?**

**Yang:** I think there are primarily four periods. The first period was about graphic





*The Land Isn't Frustrated* from Yang's *Environmental Protection* series. The colors of the painting accurately display the "thoughts" of land, which has given birth to so many lives but has been hurt and damaged. Yang doesn't use direct symbols in the piece, but employs the color red and the simultaneous flow of other colors to express the pressure on people caused by land problems.

manifestation. During that period, I worked as a university teacher in Inner Mongolia and participated in China's National Exhibition of Fine Arts three times, an exhibition at the forefront of Chinese fine arts for decades. I helped restore the murals in the Dazhao Monastery, one of the oldest and largest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in the city of Hohhot, served as the president of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Watercolor Association, and published many works. The second period was about three-dimensional manifestation. During this stage, I was responsible for design and construction of several dozen important renovation projects, including the Inner Mongolia Hall in the Great Hall of the People. I also received a number of national awards and prizes. During the third period, through integrative recombination of social art, I gradually employed art as a means and foundation to participate in social practice. The fourth period is about enlightenment and change. During this period, I developed theories and practices including "personified landscape," "idea reflection," and "promoting the good." Also during this stage, I became devoted to artistic creation related to the development of human civilization, emphasizing the



*Living from What the Coal Can Give* from Yang's *Environmental Protection* series. This piece showcases some places' shortsighted economic development practices for which the environment pays dearly. This piece exhibits the painter's worries about the destruction of the earth and calls for the protection of the environment and human beings. Contrasting traditional Chinese paintings, the work creatively uses colors to form a sense of urgency caused by the of challenge environmental protection.

resonance between the artist's spirit and the audience and paying close attention to human thoughts and life, which formed my present style. This period has created the results of my "enlightenment" and "change."

**CP: When did you start to make social and environmental challenges the core topics of your artistic creation? Why did this change happen?**

**Yang:** Actually, my aspiration to produce work on social and environmental topics has always been there. However, in the past, I was



constrained by the social environment of the time and choices of personal development. During my childhood, influenced by Chinese picture storybooks, I adored and worshiped heroes and made up my mind to praise virtue and punish vice with my brush. Later, after I received a national science and technology award for restoring ancient structures, I became even more determined to protect human civilization, nature, and living beings. You can see such expression in many of my works, including my sketches and those I produced for my own entertainment. For example, my watercolor series on the Zhoushan Archipelago were all named after various winds: *Light Air*, *Light Breeze*, *Gentle Breeze*, *Moderate Breeze*, and *Fresh Breeze*. These works depict different wind power through portraying changes of sea waves. And these works were the embodiment of my views on environmental protection at that time.

Now, with China's social development entering a new era, the country has proposed to build a community of shared future for mankind. Since China is making increasingly greater contributions to human development, its artistic vision and mind should also become more open. I think painters from such a responsible great country should keep the motherland in mind and at the same time look to the whole world. Thus, I decided to make producing artistic works devoted to living beings, global survival and the development of human civilization my lifelong goal.


**CP: What is the relationship between creation techniques, manifestation patterns and cultural connotations? What positive effects will exploration and breakthroughs in new artistic media and forms have on easel art?**

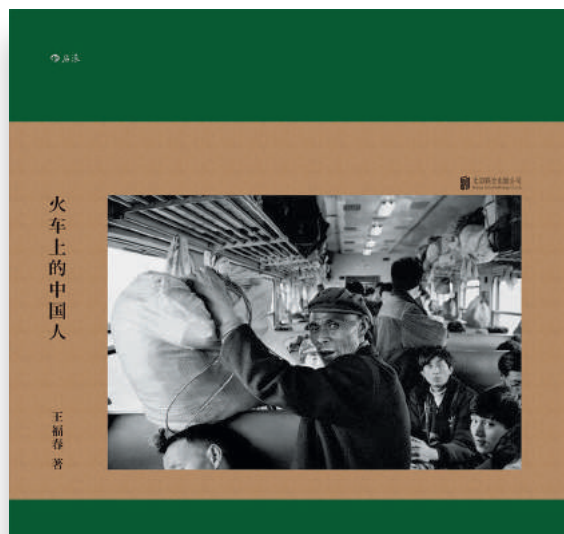
**Yang:** Artistic creation is innovation. You need to be different — you can neither copy the masters nor repeat yourself. You shouldn't compete with science and technology, or clone others, but always stay down-to-earth and be



*Angry Mahakala* from Yang's *Colorful Tibetan Buddhism* series. In Esoteric Buddhism, Mahakala is an important protective divinity. This piece exhibits the anger and fierceness of Mahakala conquering a devil. Yang doesn't confine himself to orthodox religious painting style and instead uses the creation method of "idea reflection" while abandoning trivial symbolic details. Only the most essential religious features of Mahakala are preserved.

yourself. The purpose of artistic creation is to express public demands and appeals or the feelings of the artist himself or herself. Thus, artists should be bold enough to use whatever forms or techniques are necessary and create new techniques or forms when necessary. All these efforts are for the purpose of producing resonance as well as spiritual connections between the audience and the works.

Just a few years ago, crisis or even the impending death of easel paintings was a hot topic in both academic and artistic circles. "Crisis" or "death" didn't mean that the number of painters decreased or painting in a particular form disappeared. This form still exists. However, the correlation between painting and society, or, paintings' ability to reflect life and the times, has weakened. Art gradually became a closed arena, and drifted away from the society that created it. That's the so-called "crisis" of easel paintings in a nutshell. I tried my best to break through these limitations with my works, and I refused to confine myself to a fortress built with symbols. I challenged established symbols and used all available image resources to get back to the needs of society. Regardless of form, whether easel art, installation or multimedia, art should strive for closer connections with society. 



# Chinese on the Train

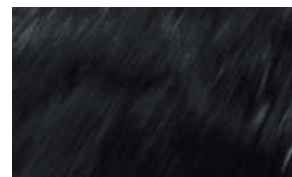
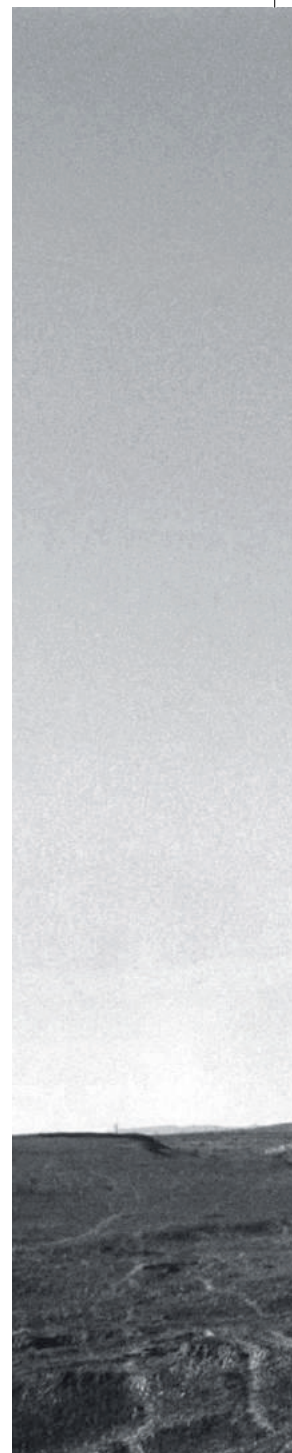
By Wang Fuchun Published by Beijing United Publishing Co., Ltd., November 2016

*Featuring selected works of black and white documentary pictures, Chinese on the Train is testament to the remarkable development of China's railway since the beginning of the reform and opening up.*

From 1978 to 2014, Wang Fuchun took the train hundreds of times, traveling more than 100,000 kilometers. This famous Chinese photographer shot about 10,000 photos, recording Chinese people's diverse lives as they traveled by train. This book features 114 pictures he shot during the 1980s and 1990s, of which 37 have never before been published.

Wang was a railway worker. This experience gave him a special affection for the railways. His camera was always drawn to trains and their passengers. The black and white pictures in his book record unique characteristics of the period shortly after the

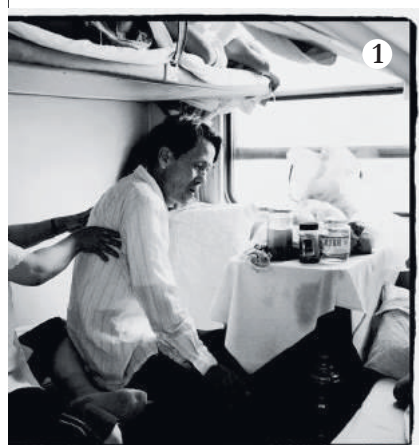
reform and opening-up policies were launched: old-style mobile phones, permed hair and T-shirts printed with portraits of movie stars began to be seen in public. His photos also capture moments of Chinese life during a trip: children weeping while seeing someone off, a peddler hawking goods and the departure moment of couples. People from many distant places in China have met on trains, temporarily, among them was a photographer hunting for any interesting moment. A seemingly normal look or behavior can carry rich meaning. His diverse pictures introduced a China flowing on the railway.







1998: On a train from Tongliao City to Ulanqab City, both in northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.



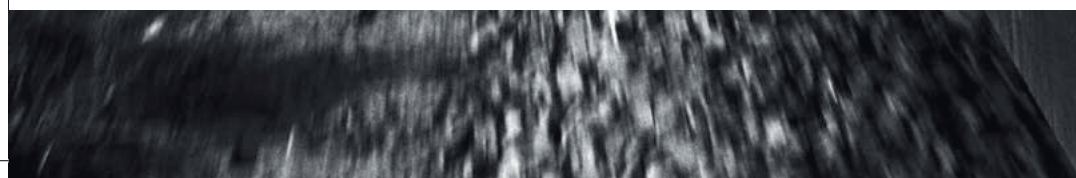
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1 1995: On a train from Xining, Qinghai Province to Zhengzhou, Henan Province.

2 1994: On a train from Beijing to Shenyang, Liaoning Province.








1994: On a train from Guangzhou, Guangdong Province to Chengdu, Sichuan Province.



Wang wrote in the preface of the book: “I recorded my feelings about the unforgettable history of China’s railway at the end of last century with those pictures. I felt lucky to be attached to the railway and have the chance to shoot the changing times from this perspective and witness the remarkable changes on China’s railway since the beginning of the country’s reform and opening up.”

Yang Shaoming, chairman of the Society of Worldwide Ethnic Chinese Photographers, opines that *Chinese on the Train* is emblematic of China’s migrating society. It also mirrors the development of Chinese society. In a way, Wang X-rayed society and life with the third eye of the human being. Vivid, authentic, and accurate, those pictures not just gain interest and sympathy among readers, but they are also valuable records of history. The vivid pictures were captured solely thanks to his passion over a long period of time, without pay. He is clearly a key witness to the era

since the country began its reform and opening up.

Wang is now a freelance photographer living in Beijing. He graduated with a photography degree from Harbin Normal University in the 1960s. Wang once served as a photographer and editor for Harbin’s Institute of Railways. He is a member of the Society of Worldwide Ethnic Chinese Photographers and the China Photographers Association. He has shot many photographic series including *Chinese on the Train*, *China’s Steam Locomotives*, *Chinese in the Subway*, *Tibetans on the Way to Heaven*, and *Pictures of Chinese People in 30 Years*. He has won the Golden Statue Award, the top prize for photography in China. His works have been exhibited in countries including Britain, France, and Italy. 

From steam locomotives to bullet trains, *Chinese on the Train* not only features passengers from all walks of life, but also documents the history of China’s railways. Pictured is a steam train traveling from Tongliao City to Ulanqab City, both in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, in 1998.







Zhang Daqian's copy of a wall painting of Water-and-Moon Guan Yin from the Dunhuang Grottoes.

## The Real Deal: Zhang Daqian's Art World

Text by Yi Mei Photographs courtesy of National Museum of China



In 1956, Zhang Daqian (1899-1983) met Pablo Picasso in France, which was considered “an artistic meeting between the East and the West.” Zhang’s copies of the Buddhist murals in the Dunhuang Grottoes were being exhibited in the National Museum of Oriental Art in Paris at the time. On January 16, 2018, the exhibition “Zhang Daqian’s Art” opened in Beijing’s National Museum of China and his copies of the murals from Dunhuang consumed half of the exhibition space, returning those works to the global spotlight.

At the center of the exhibition hall is one of Zhang’s copies of a mural from Cave No. 196 of the Dunhuang Grottoes, which is a narrative work painted in the late Tang Dynasty (618-907). The largest of its kind at 9.25 meters high and 3.45 meters wide, the copy recounts the story of a competition between a senior Buddhist monk and some pagans, after which the pagans converted to Buddhism.

Zhang Daqian was born in a well-off family in Sichuan Province. At an early age, he learned painting from his mother and brother. Zhang then traveled to Japan to study before heading to Shanghai to receive traditional painting instruction from two famous calligraphers and painters of the time: Zeng Xi and Li Ruiqing.

Zhang’s early style attempted to mimic ancient masters by emulating famous works of painters and calligraphers throughout the ages including Shi Tao, Chen Hongshou and Xu Wei. He meticulously studied and copied their works and began to make forgeries—his paintings emulating Shi Tao’s works successfully deceived some of the best connoisseurs. He particularly admired Wang Meng, a famous painter in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and emulated his works for more than a decade. As he honed his skills in landscape painting by studying painter Wang Meng and his works, Zhang eventually developed his own distinct style featuring special ink stretch and profound composition.

Zhang Daqian also learned from nature. He traveled to many places in China, traversing plains, deserts, mountains and rivers. In 1938, Zhang’s friend Yan Jingzhai described the



Late Autumn in Wuxia Gorge by Zhang Daqian.





Zhang Daqian's copy of a wall painting from the Dunhuang Grottoes depicting a contest between Buddhist disciples and pagans.

precious murals in the Dunhuang Grottoes to him, which kindled Zhang's passion for the place. In 1941, Zhang ventured to Dunhuang and over the following two years and seven months, he led his son, students and friends to copy the murals, finishing 276 pieces and unleashing new inspiration for future creation. During his stay at Dunhuang, Zhang also hired many young people and lamas to study, comb, protect and catalog the grottoes. They counted a total of 309. Zhang was the first Chinese person to perform such





work. He invented one of the three systems that are now still used to catalog murals in the Dunhuang Grottoes.

Zhang's painting style changed sharply after his visit to Dunhuang, from modest and elegant to magnificent and gorgeous. His female subjects exploded with charm. His subsequent color choices and clothing designs featured strong characteristics of Dunhuang's murals. Formerly slim female figures became plump, with faces and hands heavily influenced

by the patterns seen in the murals in the Dunhuang Grottoes. These changes are most evident in two female figure paintings displayed in this exhibition. As early as the 1940s and 1950s, Zhang's copies of those murals were exhibited in China's Lanzhou, Chengdu and Chongqing as well as Tokyo and Paris, providing a glimpse of Dunhuang's fantastic art for the world.

The "Borrowing and Creation" section of the exhibition illustrates Zhang's artistic



金勒飛江神銀尊奉白頭三鰥然易  
畫涼月任為西

康如善歸好弄民醉歌達旦桑日紙錦莊



張大千



In 1947, Zhang Daqian traveled from Sichuan Province to Yunnan Province. On the way, he witnessed some customs of ethnic groups and painted them.





In 1947, Zhang Daqian traveled all the way from Sichuan Province to Yunnan Province. Pictured is a landscape he painted on the way.

perception and creation after he digested wide varieties of genres, schools and styles including court painting, religious painting and even folk art. By the 1960s, Zhang had developed his *pomo* (splashed ink) and *pocai* (splashed color) styles, entering an artistic stage of “following the heart.”

Zhang’s teachers often practiced art criticism, calligraphy and collection as well as painting. Zhang followed suit. From the 1920s to 1930s, Zhang mainly collected works from painters of the Ming (1368-1644)



Zhang’s painting style changed sharply after his visit to Dunhuang, from modest and elegant to magnificent and gorgeous. ”

and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties including Tang Yin, Chen Hongshou and Shi Tao. Afterwards, he began to gather works from the Five Dynasties Period (907-960) and the Song (960-1279) and Yuan dynasties. Zhang’s own works were greatly influenced by such collectibles. The “Dafengtang’s Collection” section displayed Zhang’s collection.

Along with calligraphy and painting, seal carving rounds out the top three most respected forms of Chinese arts. Compared to his peers, Zhang used seals and stamps created with the deftest skills and best materials. The “Zhang Daqian’s Seals” section features many of his seals. The “Zhang Daqian’s Teachers and Students” section displays works by Zhang’s many mentors and protégés, which help shed light on Zhang’s artistic concepts, style and achievements. ”



## Rhizome

### A Survey Subject of Chinese Contemporary Arts

January 14 – March 11, 2018  
Today Art Museum, Beijing

Based on a case study of the artists, this exhibition endeavors to explore the unique path of Chinese contemporary art under the background of globalization.

After careful selection, the exhibition displayed nearly 50 pieces from eight famous Chinese contemporary artists, which represent typical artistic styles of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, as well as other different periods, covering diverse media forms including sculpture, photography, video, installation and painting.



Exercise 8, Posture 10 of *Physique of Consciousness* by Xu Zhen, 2011.



*Blind Portraits* by Sui Jianguo, 50×60×40cm (single), cast copper, 2012-2014.



*The Face and the Back – 16.02* by Wang Luyan, 2016.

## Practice and Exchange

### An Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Art

January 10-28, 2018  
Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing

This exhibition brought together recent works by 17 Chinese artists to display a small but representative sample of the diversity of formal and conceptual approaches favored in China today.

The exhibition coincided with French President Emmanuel Macron's trip to Beijing and his visit to Ullens Center for Contemporary Art. It aimed to present intricate and inspiring works that address myriad issues by employing wide-ranging techniques, both Chinese and global, to inspire new ways of thinking.



Poster for "Practice and Exchange:  
An Exhibition of Chinese  
Contemporary Art."





## Inhabiting Cai Zhisong 2018 Solo Exhibition

January 24 – April 7, 2018  
Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou

Cai Zhisong is one of the most iconic and famous Chinese sculptors of all time. The exhibition displays four series of his works: “Motherland,” “Rose,” “Clouds” and “Homeland.”

Created since the end of 1999, the “Motherland” series took Cai 16 years to complete. This series combines styles from different regions and historical periods to place focus on history and humanity. Cai began to work on the “Rose” series in 2008 and completed it in 2014. The material and installations of the “Rose” series together convey the artist’s attitudes about love. The “Cloud” series was created in 2011. The installations and concepts of this series interpret the artist’s views on life. Created in 2016, the “Homeland” series explores the relationship between man and nature with traditional themes, and further examines the meaning of life.

In 1997, Cai graduated from the sculpture department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. From 1998 to 2008, he taught at the academy. Cai has won several domestic and international awards, such as the Gangsong Family Fund Award, the Taylor Prize at the Paris Autumn Salon and the President’s Prize of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. His works have been collected by many famous museums and art institutions at home and abroad.

Poster for “Inhabiting—  
Cai Zhisong 2018 Solo  
Exhibition.”



## Er Dongqiang Shanghai Art Deco (Solo)

December 18, 2017 – February 28, 2018  
SHTrust-Artspace, Shanghai

In the 1930s, over 1,000 Art Deco style buildings were built in Shanghai, ranking it second in the world in volume. The Art Deco style, which originated in France in 1925, has left a big impact on urban construction and lifestyles of people around the world with its avant-garde, fashionable and practical style.

This exhibition of famous Chinese photographer Er Dongqiang primarily shows Art Deco buildings constructed in Shanghai over the past century as well as introduces famous architects and their works of the period. The exhibition also includes the photographer’s personal collection of the Art Deco style and creates effects with flat and solid works. The exhibition is already cooperating with the publisher to launch the second edition of Er Dongqiang’s famous photographic album *Shanghai Art Deco* and spread architectural culture.

Er Dongqiang was born in Tianjin in 1959. After practicing professional photography for many years, he began excelling at capturing and recording changes in culture. He visited many places across China and around the world, creating a literary vision for this changeable era.



Poster for “Er Dongqiang—Shanghai Art  
Deco (Solo).”





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城子古村





# 塞罕坝

牢记使命 艰苦创业 绿色发展

半个多世纪，三代人耕耘。

沙地变林海，荒原成绿洲。

寒来暑往，

塞罕坝机械林场的森林覆盖率

已达80%。

栽种树木按二米株距排开，

可绕地球赤道一圈。

Saihanba is a cold alpine area in northern Hebei Province bordering the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It was once a barren land but is now home to 75,000 hectares of forest, thanks to the labor of generations of forestry workers in the past 55 years. Every year the forest purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry.