



Peking University

NEWSLETTER

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Contact Us

Address: Office of International Relations
 Peking University, 100871
 Beijing, P.R. China
Phone: (+86) 10-6275-7453
Fax: (+86) 10-6275-1240
Email: xiaorui.eric@pku.edu.cn

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Building People-Centric Partnerships Indian President Speaks at PKU

▣ Zhou Yixiu

On May 6, 2016, Indian President H.E. Pranab Mukherjee delivered a speech at the "India-China University Presidents Roundtable" at the Moonlight Hall of the Yingjie Overseas Exchange Center during his visit to Peking University (PKU). In his speech, President Mukherjee emphasized and encouraged closer people-to-people communication between India and China.

In the beginning of his remarks,

President Mukherjee pointed out that there are profound cultural

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To build a people-centric partnership, we must have mutual trust predicated on mutual respect and a better appreciation of our respective political and social systems.

”

exchanges between India and China. Neither country could imag-

Bodhidharma, Xuan Zang, or Faxian. In the last century, India and

China supported each other in a common struggle to break free from foreign domination to regain their rightful place in the international society. Even though their bilateral relations have been tested by difficulties and challenges over the last seven decades, President Mukherjee explained that both are determined to safeguard their friendship.

Then, President Mukherjee stressed that in the 21st century, India and China are at the threshold of an opportunity to join the ranks of leading global powers. Due to their shared past and common Asian identity and aspiration, India and China must work together to achieve their bright prospects on the road to revival.

President Mukherjee went on to share his vision of how to realize India and China's common dream of rejuvenation in the "Asian Century." First of all, he attached great importance to political communication. Both sides should broaden their common ground and manage their differences. Then, he emphasized enhancing bilateral relations through fostering more people-centric partnerships. He shared his eight steps to create a broad level of contact between the two countries.

"To build a people-centric partnership, we must have mutual trust predicated on mutual respect and a better appreciation of our respective political and social systems," President Mukherjee explained the basis of partnership between

China and India. He noticed that, "In spite of having more than a third of the world's population, the contact between the people's representatives on both sides is still very limited." Therefore, President Mukherjee called for greater mutual trust via "more regular contacts between people's representatives at both official and non-official levels".

President Mukherjee also paid great attention to the youth's power in building partnerships: "Our youth share common aspirations and perceptions. Their annual exchanges have been fruitful, but both sides need to synergize their potential by including more educational opportunities, youth festivals, sports exchanges, youth-oriented tourism and social media linkages."

Additionally, President Mukherjee deemed that India and China should re-invigorate intellectual and cultural exchanges. On the one hand, it is useful to understand excellent traditional culture, such as Yoga, Tai Chi, and traditional medicine. On the other hand, it can "help dispel the notion that we need to look to the West and not to each other to make progress in education, science, and technology."

After that, he pointed out that, trade and commerce can be one of the most powerful agents in reinforcing our strengths and reducing our weaknesses. He invited Chinese companies to participate in the

'Made in India' initiative and to join us in 'Start Up India'.

At last, President Mukherjee quoted Gandhi's words: "I look forward to the day when a free India and a free China will cooperate together in friendship and brotherhood for their own good and for the good of Asia and the world." President Mukherjee encouraged the people of India and China to strive for that objective and to realize this golden vision.

After the speech, President Mukherjee presented 350 books to PKU as a gift, including books in Sanskrit and Bengali, and PKU also gifted him books in return, including *The Complete Works of Ji Xianlin*.

Background Information

President H.E. Pranab Mukherjee started his visit to China on May 24, 2016, at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. He is indeed an old friend of the Chinese people. He visited China in 2006 as defense minister, 2008 as foreign minister, and 2011 as finance minister. He is also an old friend of PKU, since this was his second visit to the University. He appreciates PKU for its efforts to continue the tradition of cultural interactions between India and China and strengthen mutual understanding through knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas.

China Strategic Communication Forum Held at PKU

✦ Wei Yuchen

On May 21, 2016, the China Strategic Communication Forum, organized by the National Institute of Strategic Communication, was held at Peking University. Multiple pioneers in the journalism and communication fields gathered to discuss the future of and vision for China's strategic communication. The guests included Zhao Qizheng, former Director of the State Council Information Office, and President of the School of Journalism, Renmin University; Kong Dan, formal Chairman of CITIC Group, Director-general of CITIC Research Foundation of Reform

Development; Ma Weigong, Vice Chief-Editor of China Radio International; Zhou Shuchun, Vice President of Xinhua News Agency.

The forum was divided into two parts: a symposium in the morning and three sub-forums in the afternoon with the topics of China National Strategical Communication and Public Diplomacy, Governance of National Communication in the Internet Era, National Image, and Enterprises Going-Out.

At the start of the conference, Cheng Manli, Director of the National Institute of Strategic Communication (NISC) made a brief introduction of the insti-

tute. The NISC was established on April 11, 2015, and its responsibilities include: 1) academic research and frontier subject construction of national strategic communication. The NISC has 14 academic subjects and has published more than 300,000 words of research reports; 2) think-tank construction. The NISC has been making efforts to truly get involved in policymaking. The reports have been taken into consideration by national leaders on multiple occasions; 3) establishment of public diplomacy platform. The NISC helped build the China-Pakistan economic corridor and the "China House" in order



to solve problems for Chinese enterprises in Pakistan, such as strategic consultancy and public relations. The NISC also set up mechanisms for cultural exchanges and international cooperation. NISC aims to become an international first-class think-tank and public diplomacy agency.

Then, the guests had a discussion around the establishment of NISC. Zhao Qizheng pointed out that as an agency focusing on strategic

communication, the NISC first and foremost should clarify its strategy. He looked at some events involving the communication of public opinion, such as the litigation raised by Philippines in the South China Sea, and concluded that indistinct strategy may sometimes be adopted. However, the ambiguity should be based on the interior clarity. In this case, what the NISC should do is not only spread the strategy, but also to take one step ahead of the strategy, which means that the institute should also put efforts in figuring out the connotation of strategy. He took the rumor of arguments between the 'hawks' and the 'doves' sector in the party as an example. Rumors such as this has been influencing the provocation of international opinions and this should be clarified and corrected. Moreover, the strategic communication involved with deeper questions: What on earth is the strategic culture of China? The strategic culture is more than specific exposition, but rising to the level of principle and ideology. Mr. Zhao considered that the strategic culture of China corresponded with the core value of our history and society—the culture of harmony.

The historical responsibility of communication that China should shoulder has also been heatedly

discussed. China is coming onto the center of the world stage, and one of China's strategies of communication is to tell China's stories. Admittedly China has its shortcomings, including the weakness in narration, system of concepts, pattern of communication, and the lack of internationally influential news agencies. However, China should recognize its own situation and position, neither undervaluing nor over exaggerating; China is developing rapidly and getting stronger, with signs of imbalance, mismatching, and disorientation from time to time. The process to spread Chinese values and to make Chinese culture more influential may be difficult, but this step is indispensable. Our ultimate goal is to reshape the international communication pattern, break the Western hegemony over discourse, and enhance China's identity.

Within the trend of economic globalization, cultural communication is more and more important in the process of economic and trade exchanges. Cultural exchanges should be people-oriented and mainly non-governmental. As a part of the soft power of the country, cultural communication has not yet fully reached its potential. Some shortcomings include the difficult of Chinese cultural communication in Burma compared with the U.S. and Japan, and the Confucius Institutes need to continue to grow. The challenge we are facing is the conversion of discourse. Measures to showcase our culture and to strengthen our friendship with other cultures should be adapted in the future.

When it comes to economic diplomacy, the relation between state-owned enterprises and public diplomacy was also deemed controversial. With huge amounts of capital and resources, state-owned enterprises are powerful in the market. However, the reputation of these enterprises is unknown

“China is coming onto the center of the world stage, and one of China's strategies of communication is to tell China's stories.”

communication, the NISC first and foremost should clarify its strategy. He looked at some events involving the communication of public opinion, such as the litigation raised by Philippines in the South China Sea, and concluded that indistinct strategy may sometimes be adopted. However, the ambiguity should

discussed. China is coming onto the center of the world stage, and one of China's strategies of communication is to tell China's stories. Admittedly China has its shortcomings, including the weakness in narration, system of concepts, pattern of communication, and the lack of internationally influential news



in the global market. State-owned enterprises are widely excluded and demonized abroad. Thus, non-market factors are becoming more and more important, including the building of image and integration into local societies. This is not only due to the lack of strategic communication ability, but also the ambivalence of strategy: Can overseas state-owned enterprises represent the will of the state? The two systems may be contrary to each other sometimes.

Mr. Zhao also talked about the future of Chinese public diplomacy. Although the government could centralize resources and talents, offering large amount of funds, the official agencies are not good at telling stories. Public diplomacy will require stories with amiable language rather than edito-

rials. "Stories moves people easily; stories are closest to the truth" he concluded.

Qi Mingqiu, Vice President of the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, shared his experience in public diplomacy. He talked about the role that the foundation played between the government and the society. There should be a conversion of language, and after that, activities of cultural communication could break through the barriers not only between the institute and the society, but also among different cultures.

The correction of national image was a relatively sensitive issue. Some speakers criticized the status quo of government spokespersons: the tougher the questions, the less courageous they are. Thus, the training of government spokesper-

sons should not only be focused on skills, but also on position, thinking, and expression. Moreover, the leaders of government agencies should forge a stronger relationship with the public.

Background Information

The Beijing-based National Institute of Strategic Communication (NISC) at Peking University was formally inaugurated on April 11, 2015. It aims to identify and address governance initiatives and communication strategies in China and beyond. Its major fields of research and consultancy include global communications, public diplomacy, media management and Internet governance.

Peking University Celebrates its 118th Anniversary

✉ Wei Yuchen

Old Alumni Coming Home

The alumni Homecoming Day began in the morning at the Nongyuan Dinning Hall. Despite of the rain, many alumni got to the meeting site early, checking-in, getting meal tickets, and meeting old friends with excitement.

After viewing a welcome video, the activity began at around 10 in the morning. Gao Song, Vice Presi-

dent of the alumni association, first delivered his speech. He reported the recent developments of Peking University, and introduced the basic situation of management system reforms. Vice President Gao pointed out that the efforts of alumni have contributed a lot to the development of PKU, and he also expressed his gratefulness for those alumni who had been supporting the works of PKU. He hoped that they could come back from time to time, and

he wished them healthy and happy lives.

Yang Dehou, who is 97 years old, delivered his speech as the representative of the alumni body. Yang looked back at the period of time that he spent at PKU. As an alumnus from the School of Engineering, he was proud to mention the accomplishment he had achieved in the field of the elevator engineering and emphasized the ideal of 'Saving the Nation with Engineering'.



After the activity, there was time for the participants to chat and have lunch. Then, some alumni went to visit the dormitories. They recalled those precious memories of living in the dorms decades ago. Some students made cupcakes for those visitors and everyone immersed in the warm atmosphere. Mrs. Guo is a graduate from the Department of Russian, Class of 1990. After seeing the dorm room that she used to live in, she said with emotion, "It has changed a lot. The living conditions are much better than those years."

Sports Competitions

The Campus Marathon was held at the May Fourth Stadium

in the morning. More than 1000 alumni gathered from all around the world to celebrate PKU's anniversary. Although the weather was cold and rainy, the alumni's passion for the run was high. Many parents brought their young children into the field; many old friends ran together to recall those youthful days; and many foreign students from Germany, Ecuador, and other countries also joined the marathon.

Sun Jiahong, an experienced marathoner, ran with her two children. She ran 54 laps around the stadium with her bare feet. She hoped that she could celebrate the anniversary as well as enjoy the simple happiness of running.

Meanwhile, an alumni badminton tournament was held inside the Khoo Teck Phut Gym. The competition was heated while applause and cheers continued. As one of alumni homecoming activities, the competition was organized and supported by many regional alumni associations. Nearly 300 alumni, forming more than 30 teams in total, participated in the game.

The Evening Show

In the evening, the "Weiming Lake is an Ocean" Peking University Evening Show for the 118th School Anniversary was held in the Centennial Memorial Hall.

One of the guests was a famous CCTV host, Sa Beining, an alumnus from School of Law. He expressed his blessings to Peking University and his fellow alumni.

Then the show's hosts went up to the stage to deliver open-

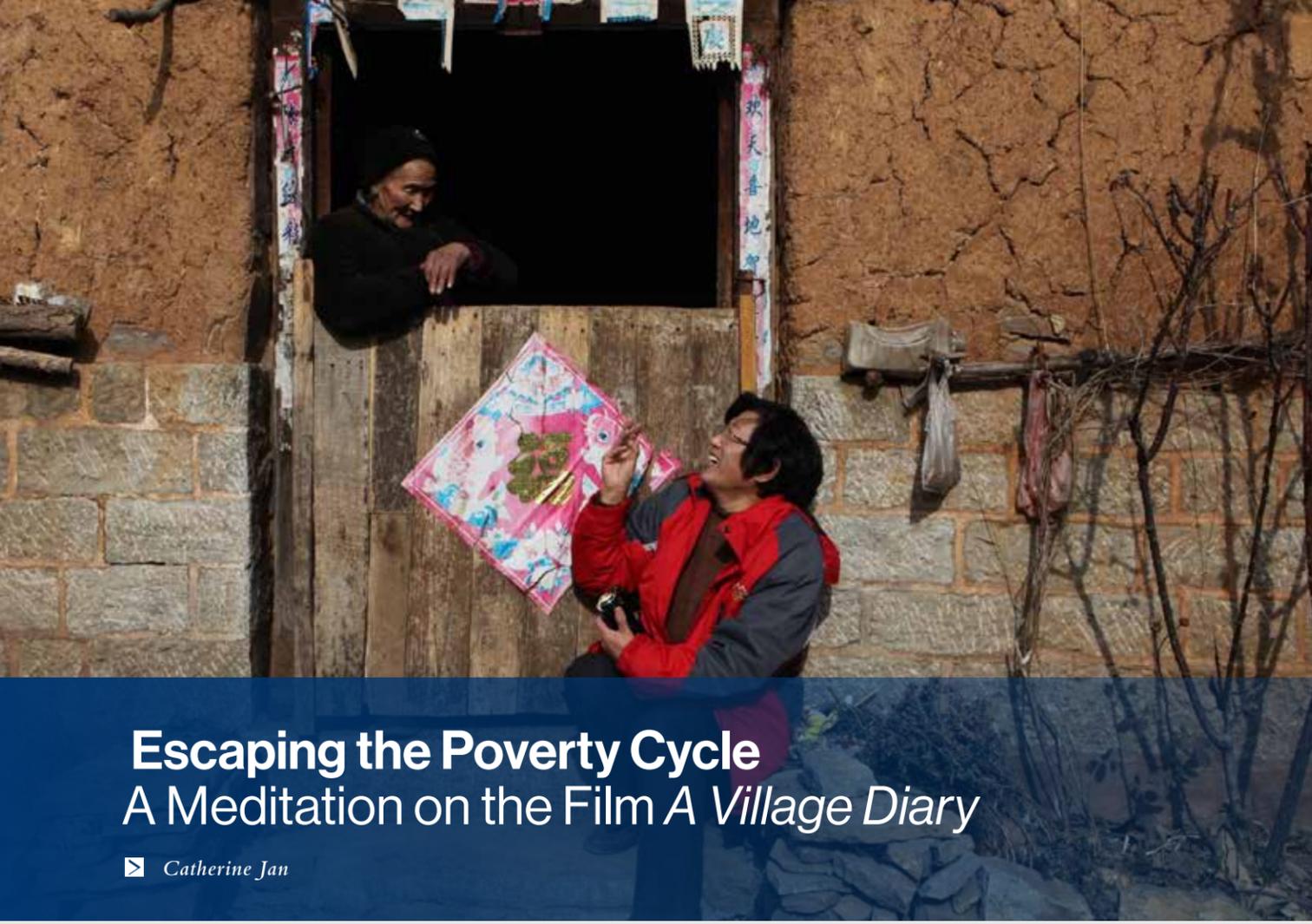
ing addresses. Among the six hosts, there were two undergraduates, three alumni from the class of 1991, and a young 'alumnus', whose mother was an alumna from the class of 1991.

The first performance was an Indian dance called the Blooming Flower of Bharata, performed by Jin Shanshan. Jin is an alumna from the Department of East Languages, class of 1991, known as the first person in Chinese classical Indian dance. After that, An Ran from the School of Law, class of 1993, sang a song entitled *Swallows Returning*. His vigorous singing was full of reminiscence and everyone was deeply moved. Then, Chen Yonghai, an alumnus from the class of 1986, sang *The Inlaid Harp* and an *Invitation To Wine*, bringing every one back to the golden time of campus folk songs twenty years ago.

Teachers were also invited to the evening show. Some of them had retired while others were still working at PKU. They recalled those precious times in the nineties with their students together.

Background Information

The 118th School Anniversary was also a part of the major celebration that will be held on the 120th anniversary. Many projects and activities are on the schedule, including global conferences on art history and philosophy, biographical research, and oral histories, to name a few. For more information, please visit <http://120.pku.edu.cn/home.html>



Escaping the Poverty Cycle A Meditation on the Film *A Village Diary*

✉ Catherine Jan

I first met director Jiao Bo during a class at Peking University (PKU) where he was a guest speaker. “The villages are disappearing,” he said during our chat, “I wanted to create something so that we have a place to put our homesickness”. This inspired a series of meditations, which took me from one Chinese village to the bigger picture of rural villages across China – which I labelled “Village China” in my mind’s eye.

Shaoyu is a typical Chinese village located in Yiyuan County, Zibo. There are 167 households in this village. The main source of income is apple orchards.

The film’s main character, Lao

Du (family name Du), is a farmer in his late 50s. Unlike many in his village, he is literate, philosophical, and intensely idealistic. His wife, on the other hand, is extremely practical. This personality difference, reinforced by severe scarcity of resources, creates constant verbal fighting between the two – a kind of tragicomedy that occurs throughout the film. For example, idealistic as he is, Lao Du decides to buy a lute. To learn a new instrument at his age requires certain courage. This act is the antonym of realistic, though some may call it the pursuit of a dream – unhindered by poverty, age, lack of talent, family opposition and lack of educational resources.

If the truth of a man is his thought, then this act of buying a lute originated from a truth in its purest form that cannot be constrained by any external forces.

“My dream’s finally come true,” he said, “the lute is spiritual.” Du regards the lute not merely a physical possession, but rather as a spiritual companion. He is determined that he will be able to play a “nice song”, and believes that this will also bring “harmony to his family”. Daoism philosophy on harmony between physical and spiritual, internal and external, personal and family, him and his wife, Ying and Yang, is well represented in him. Unfortunately, his wife doesn’t

see it that way. “You talk about the quality of life all day,” she yells, “Is it eatable? Drinkable? Holding a lute won’t get you out of poverty!”

According to The World Bank, since initiating market reforms in 1978, China has “lifted more than 800 million people out of poverty”. With average GDP growth of nearly 10 percent a year, “China reached all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015”. However, inequality remains a big issue. China’s Gini Coefficient for income inequality remains high at 0.473 in 2013. For Lao Du’s family, their apples and a whole year’s labour sold for a profit of 8,000 Yuan (a little over US\$1,000/Year).

One engine driving this rapid GDP growth is urbanization across Village China. Shaoyu village is no exception. The responsibility falls on the Party Secretary of the village, to organize and coordinate the changes. The village secretary orders some trees to be cut down to make space for a new stadium and a notice board for better entertainment and communication. An argument breaks out. On the one hand, the residents argue that the government does not have the right to cut these down without permissions of the people. On the other hand, the Secretary wants to transform Shaoyu into a modern village. He holds meetings with outside investors for possible tourism projects, organizes the construction of new roads in the village, and he takes the blame from both the unhappy villagers and the overworked local government officials. A verbal fight soon turns into a physical one. Nature and industri-

alization hang in the balance of real progress.

Meanwhile, the soils in China are becoming less and less produc-

The owner told me that she could not sell because there was already a surplus of houses, and at the same time not sure if selling was a good

“ But the truth is, these conflicts do not come from evil, rather, they originate from deep hopes and dreams of these villagers, a desire to escape the vicious poverty cycle, an aspiration for a better future for their children and their grandchildren – a Chinese dream. ”

tive. Most of the young people leave their villages to seek work in the cities, and send money home – the only viable pension system in many rural areas. According to Lao Du, going out as a migrant worker, “you are not selling labor, you are selling life. The exchange of human meat for pork meat.” Cruel as the comment might be, soon afterwards, a migrant worker from this village died on work site. The compensation is barely enough to cover for his two elderly parents and his primary school aged son. The issue of inequality is multifactorial and therefore will need to be tackled from many angles such as environmental awareness, worker’s protection policies, and elderly pension systems.

The outflow of young people drained villages of their workforce and left myriads of vacant houses. During the Spring Festival this year, I visited a village near Yangzhou, a more developed part of China compared to Shaoyu. There was a large three story house – newly built, un-renovated, and vacant.

idea because in case the government decides to demolish the house and relocate the family (termed *chai-qian*), they would get a bit more money than selling to a private owner. This sort of uncertainty is real and abundant among rural residents in China.

Lao Du, knowledgeable as he is, understands very well that a lute cannot get him out of poverty. In an emotional scene he shares his life-lesson with his son.

“Why do we put everything we’ve got into your studies? People always



say we peasants love the land. Son, let me tell you something. Actually I've had absolutely no feeling for the land from the very beginning. But we have no choice...I am a loser in my whole life. You are grown up now, and in the period of studying. So, you'd better study hard. You may think I'm not the right person to talk you through this. Lessons from failure are more valuable than those from success. It's all experience from blood, sweat, and tears"

Education is the golden key to break the poverty cycle. China introduced a nine-year compulsory education system in 1986. For children coming from the poorest families; however, education is still a luxury they cannot afford. Although schooling is free, textbooks, stationary, uniforms and transport are not, and these costs are often beyond the means of a poor family. Like Lao Du's family, those with more than one child decide to

pull one from school to work. And unfortunately, in most of the cases it is the girl.

Furthermore, the quality of education varies greatly between cities and countryside. Lower quality not only in terms of what is being taught, but also how it is being taught that stimulates children's interest in learning. Poorer children cannot access the schools with better resources, and as a result, are disadvantaged in getting a fair shot to a better life. The families have to make a decision: pay more for their children to get a fair education and get into a more impoverished living state, or pull their children out of schools to contribute to family's income and allow the children to re-enter the same poverty cycle as their parents had.

The Hukou system doesn't help, either. It is an internal passport system that distinguishes between urban and rural residents and was originally designed to regulate rural exodus. But it also prevents children from a rural background from getting the same educational privileges reserved for children from urban areas, forming an extra barrier for the rural children to step out of poverty.

It is heart-breaking to hear Lao Du, usually a proud father, admitting his own disappointment and failures. It makes one wonder what education is all about? Is it about using education to break free so that peasants no longer have to farm? Lao Du keeps his touch to the bigger world by watching daily national news. He watches silently at the successful launch of Shen-

zhou 9 spacecraft. Despite his home environment is being demolished by industrialization, despite the apple sale turned out to be a disaster, despite the daily struggles, despite all his disappointments, at this very moment, there is a sense of pride in his eyes. It again makes one wonder, what does the launching of Shenzhou 9 have anything to do with Lao Du's life? Can it solve any of his problems? Not at all. Conversely, did Lao Du contribute anything to the launch? Let's consider the factors contributing to a successful launch. Engineers, sure. Technology, sure. Materials, policies and collaborations, sure. But, how come they have the time to focus on doing these, instead of worrying about food – the basic need to survive? The answer takes us right back to the agrarian revolution—it's the farmers. Farmers devoted their time and life into producing food for others, so that the engineers don't have to spend time on producing food and can instead focus on producing rockets. Inside Lao Du's eyes is an ordinary Chinese farmer's patriotism. And there is no shame in that. Back to our original question. Is it about using education to break free so that peasants no longer have to farm? Or rather, leveraging education to allow the freedom of 'choice', so that every child gets to choose if s/he prefers to be a farmer or an engineer or a politician or a doctor?

The film ends with a Chinese New Year celebration. The wife sings a folk song on the newly built stadium and the husband accompanies her with his new lute. It is

normal for conflicts to occur, especially in the face of oppositions and rapid changes. Idealists versus realists, reason versus madness, and nature versus industrialism, all moving at a neck break speed. But the truth is, these conflicts do not come from evil, rather, they originate from deep hopes and dreams of these villagers, a desire to escape the vicious poverty cycle, an aspiration for a better future for their children and their grandchildren – a Chinese dream. It is this dream, that brings unity despite their differences, and engender harmony despite conflicts.

Change is inevitable, but meditation on what the change means to the people is indispensable. Actions are both necessary and urgent. Maybe next time you visit

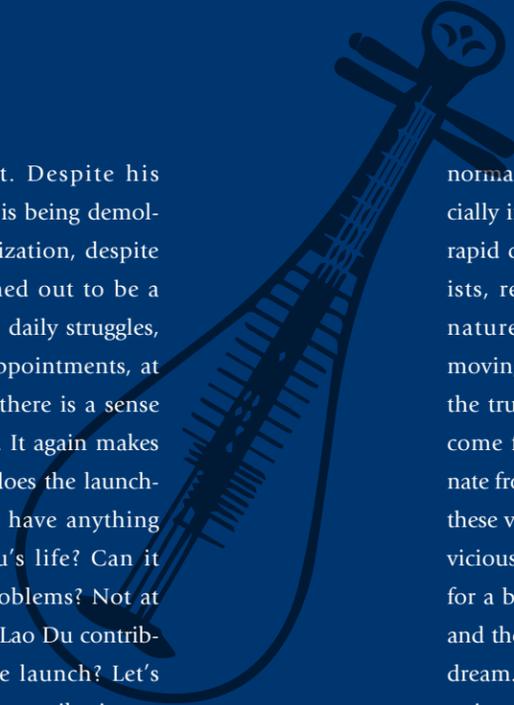
the village, it will be completely different. There might be less trees and more stadiums. Less apples but more apple pickers made of tourists wanting to experience rural lifestyle. Not better or worse, just different.

Thoughts are endless, but I'm afraid I have to halt here. William Blake once said that he could "see the world through a grain of sand." This article is by no means a full account of all the social elements presented in the film, and by far not a complete representation of Village China. It is merely my meditation at this particular point of time, limited by my background and experience. Hopefully it might somewhat pique your interest in knowing more about the culture of this ancient nation and the people living within

its villages – their dreams, laughter, and struggles.

One of the most valuable things of being at a place like PKU is that you get to meet different people from different nationalities and cultures, and you get to collide your ideas with those of experts from all fields on a daily basis. Through these small collisions of thoughts, we expand our horizons to broader problems we face today, meditate on what these problems mean for individual lives and for humanity at large, and explore actionable solutions.

Acknowledgement: I would like to thank Professor Lu Shaoyang for his introduction and support, and director Jiao Bo for his support and encouragement.



Exploring My Other Half My Relationship with China

▶ Hannah Yingying von Minden

As my time as an exchange student in China is slowly coming to an end, I find myself reflecting a lot about my experiences these past 10 months. Peking University has provided me with a perfect platform to expand my knowledge about this diverse country, to dig deeper into its culture, to understand its society, to get to know wonderful people. While reflecting on all of these experiences, a question came to my mind: What is China to me?

China has always been a part of my life. My mom is Chinese, my dad is German, and I was born and raised in Germany. Actually, this sentence can be put on my list of 'most frequently used phrases'. Due to my bicultural background, I often get asked where I



am from. In Germany, I am usually "the Chinese girl", whereas in China I'm always the "Lao Wai" or sometimes people think I'm from Xinjiang. My sister and I grew up bilingual, thanks to a great mom who put a lot of effort in our Chinese education. Since we grew up in



Germany, our lives were mostly influenced by German culture. Needless to say, it is very difficult to integrate into a different culture, let alone Chinese culture, in such an environment, but my mom did an amazing job. She has never spoken one German word to us and started teaching us to write Chinese when we were in kindergarten. Starting from age 5, my sister and I went to a Chinese School every Saturday where we continued learning reading and writing. During that time, we often got into arguments with my mom, because we wanted to play with our friends instead of practicing Chinese, and we did not want to get up at 7am on Saturdays while everybody else was sleeping in. Also, my mom was the only person we were speaking Chinese to

regularly, so our Chinese proficiency did not improve significantly.

Besides the language itself, there is obviously the family bond. We have a very close relationship to my mom's family, and we go to China every summer to visit them. Growing up, China in my mind was a country of kind, loving people, delicious food, and hot and sticky weather. It was my second home, but besides my family there I never thought a lot about the diverse culture of this country, so my personal China was a lot smaller than China as a country.

At some point, I started becoming more conscious about my Chinese 'half'. I noticed that I looked at certain topics concerning China with a different view than my friends, but at the same time I real-

ized I couldn't explain why, because my knowledge about China was too limited. I started becoming anxious to learn more about Chinese culture and society, to explore and get to know my 'other half' more deeply. I felt like I was made of two 'halves', with the German half being full and rich, whereas the Chinese one had empty spots that were yet to be filled with knowledge and experience. I wanted to be able to talk in Chinese without missing words, wanted to be able to read books without constantly looking things up in the dictionary, and I wanted to balance my bicultural identity.

With this mindset I decided to take a gap year after my high school graduation last summer and started my journey at PKU in September 2015. Since then, my relation-

ship with China has taken a path full of ups and downs (mostly ups) and I am more than thankful for every single experience I have made here so far. I started enriching my 'Chinese half' day by day – a conversation with a taxi driver here,

“ In Germany, I am usually “the Chinese girl”, whereas in China I’m always the “Lao Wai” or sometimes people think I’m from Xinjiang. ”

a walk through a Hutong there; every little experience helped me dig deeper into China's rich culture. Many things were familiar to me, but I was really surprised of all those things I had not known about

China before. To be honest, the crowdedness everywhere, the crazy driving skills of the people, and the immense pollution during the fall and winter months were really hard to deal with at first. I also had difficulties making Chinese friends,

even though I was taking classes with them, because I felt like neither of us knew what to say to the other after the cliché small talk. To sum it up, I had a culture shock

in the country that I had called my second home.

Culture shock does not last forever, and after a few months, I felt more and more like a real Beijing girl. Looking back, I can't

believe how much I have gained – knowledge, friends, independence, life experience, and much more. Even though I feel like China is an endless ocean of things to be discovered, I can say for sure, that I have filled all the empty spots in my 'Chinese half'. I can write research papers in Chinese, discuss history and politics; I got to know some of the smartest, most genuine people I have ever met, acted in a musical, hiked with the Hiking Association, wrote for the Newsletter – things I could have never imagined before coming to Beijing, to PKU, to be precise. If China was my second home before, it was a small little apartment, now it has grown to be a huge mansion full of precious memories that I will never forget. I have found my other half, and I could not be happier!

A Southeast Asian Chinese's Understanding of Her Roots

▣ Khaw Faye

In a nearby café with a relaxing ambience, I had the chance to speak to Miss Sarita Suklotham.

This soft-spoken and jovial young lady is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Peking University. We were casually conversing in Mandarin until

her phone rang, and she switched to Thai as she spoke through her mobile.

Sarita is an international student from Thailand. However, what makes her identity special is that her family is of Chinese descent. Her forefathers migrated and settled down in Thailand. Generations

later, their descendants assimilated into the Thai culture. Despite assimilating into the Thai population, Sarita still feels strongly of her Chinese identity.

“In Thailand, there is cultural diversity, so the society is very receptive to a cultural potpourri. The Chinese migrants that have come

over in the early days have passed down the language and culture. Today, part of the Chinese culture has evolved to be part of the Thai culture, and at areas like Chinatown where there is a dense population of Chinese, people still speak Mandarin and other Chinese dialects, and the Chinese culture and practices are still being inherited." In fact, Sarita told me that in her family, the Chinese tradition is still being observed strictly, since her parents received their education in Chinese. She felt that her parents' traditional practices are huge influences in her life. "Even though the Chinese language was only prominent in school lessons and work, my parents incorporated Chinese into our daily lives."

Sarita feels that such an upbringing was what sparked her interest in Chinese language and culture. She worked in a Chinese school prior to coming to Beijing. Her passion in Chinese culture made her love her job as well. In 2005, she had the chance to stay in China for a semester for a Chinese program under a scholarship. She was extremely thankful for the opportunity, as she felt that it was an exposure to greater knowledge of what she always had a passion for. This semester in China posed itself to be useful when she went back to her teaching job after that. In 2011, she decided to further her studies at Peking University, by



taking up a master's degree program in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature. In 2015, she returned to Peking University once again, this time pursuing a doctoral degree in the same department.

"Inheritance of Chinese culture is important, for it is what generates interest in the descendants," Sarita explained. Looking back at her family upbringing in Thailand, Sarita is grateful for her parents, for their efforts in preserving and passing on the Chinese culture to her generation. As a Chinese descendent, she feels that it is crucial for her to understand her roots and its culture.

"With greater bilateral ties between China and Thailand, more and more young people are picking up the Chinese language in school. Sadly, the usage of the language in Thailand is still rather limited." Sarita hopes that the usage of Chinese language will be more prevalent as time goes by, and with the knowledge that she is gaining, she hopes to pass it on to younger generations of Thai Chinese, so that like her, they will be responsible for preserving their culture and language, and so that they can appreciate the beautiful Chinese traditions.

American Alumnus Frank Hawke Shares His China Story

✉ Jessie Gammon

In 1979, while working on his Ph.D. at Stanford University, Frank Hawke made a decision that would not just change his life forever, but also write him into the pages of modern Chinese history. The United States and China had only just announced the establishment of diplomatic relations on New Year's Day 1979, and on February 23 mid-afternoon, Mr. Hawke's plane from Tokyo touched down at a snow-covered Beijing Airport, bringing the first ever group of American exchange students to the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Hawke had 'caught the China bug' while working on his Bachelors in Economics at Stanford University in the mid-seventies. After deciding to put off a calculus requirement for another quarter, he discovered a course called "The Problems of Arms Control and Disarmament" taught by a Sinology professor named John Lewis. Dr. Lewis sparked his interest in China studies and after taking another course taught by Harry Harding on modern Chinese politics, Mr. Hawke decided to pursue a PhD in Political Science with a focus on Chinese political-economy.

After graduating from his bachelor's program, Mr. Hawke directly entered the Ph.D. program and was planning to study in Taiwan, as mainland China was inaccessible to American students at that time. But just as he was finishing

up his course work, Chinese-American relations reached its highest point in 30 years. Stanford University had signed an agreement with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and chose Mr. Hawke to join seven other students who would make up the first ever group of Americans to study in mainland China since the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

Mainland China was one of the last places on earth where you could not find Americans, but the newcomers quickly filled the void by settling into buildings 26 and 25 on campus. Each American was assigned a Chinese roommate, but Mr. Hawke had some issues with him at first. He told me in his office in the Stanford Center on campus, "there was a bit of a struggle there, because my roommate at first thought that I was god's gift to him: I was his English teacher. All he wanted to do was to speak English to me. And of course that wasn't the way I saw it." Many of the Chinese students were adamant about practicing their English or were discouraged from approaching foreigners, so Mr. Hawke found that the best people to practice his Chinese with at first were actually the Africans from French-speaking countries, because their only common language was Chinese. To this day he still loves the reggae music that his African friends intro-



duced him to in his early days at Peking University.

Mr. Hawke's Chinese improved rapidly, and he and his roommate were able to smooth out their relationship before long. He became close to some of his teachers too, including Professor Hong Junyan, who was responsible for the academic lives of the American students who were studying economics. In the winter of 1980, Mr. Hawke was alone for Chinese New Year, the most important holiday in Chinese culture, so Professor Hong invited him to his home for a New Year's Dinner. The faculty housing was in bad shape at that time, but Professor Hong did not mind the condition of his home and went completely out of his way to have a lonely young Mr. Hawke over for dinner. The gesture really touched him at that time, and it is

“ Mr. Hawke had ‘caught the China bug’ while working on his Bachelors in Economics at Stanford University in the mid-seventies. ”

something that Mr. Hawke says he will always remember.

Mr. Hawke joined the basketball team, and occasionally partied at the weekly ‘disco’ organized for the foreigners in town, but he spent most of his time studying. Every week he would take the bus to a big post office at Liubukou in central Beijing and browse through the new publications on the shelf. It was an exciting time, Mr. Hawke said, because there was an explosion of new publications in the Chinese academic world.

He would buy ten or fifteen journals and magazines on politics and economics and have them bundled up. In the winter he would eat boiled sliced lamb out of the gigantic ten-person communal hot pot at Hong Bin Lou, the Halal restaurant nearby. If it were summer, he would go for the grilled lamb on sticks.

The late seventies, early eighties were really a time of immense change in China. Mr. Hawke’s ultimate goal was not to earn a Ph.D., but just to be involved in China. In the seventies, the only way Americans could get involved

was through academia, as there were no diplomatic relations and very little business. But once Mr. Hawke arrived and China began to further open its doors to American businesses, he realized, “those business guys were getting all the cool meetings”, and he decided to scrap his plans for a Ph.D., and after teaching a semester of economics at PKU, he took a job at a young company called Unison International, which helped American companies get their foot into the Chinese market. One of his most famous deals was the Beijing Jeep Corporation, China’s first Chinese-Western automotive joint venture, and now one of the most classic examples of early foreign direct investment in China. Mr. Hawke represented American Motors, and the deal took about four years to negotiate before the signing in 1984. On a table in

his office, he has a framed photograph of himself translating in the Great Hall of the People, between the Chairman of American Motors and the Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, Chen Muhua. With Chinese teacups and trays of cigarettes on the table, it was a classic Chinese business scene.

Besides a few years in Taiwan and Vietnam (where he led the team that reestablished Citibank in the country), Mr. Hawke has lived more or less continuously in Beijing since he arrived in 1979. He is a self-described ‘Beijinger’ who has raised two bilingual and bicultural children in the city. At an alumni event in May this year, Mr. Hawke said that Peking University changed his life. He is now one of the most distinguished American alumni of Peking University and has built one of the most impressive careers of Americans expatriates in China. By managing the Stanford Graduate School of Business at the Stanford Center in the northern part of the PKU campus, he has returned to both of his alma maters, and will continue to make Peking University proud.

From Wall Street to Beijing

Hailed as a ‘brilliant economic thinker’ by the Wall Street Journal, Professor Pettis is currently teaching economics and finance at PKU’s School of Guanghua Management. In addition to having published three authoritative books in his field, Pettis has worked for global investment bank giant Bear Sterns and has served as an advisor to sovereign governments such as Mexico, South Korea, and Macedonia on financial management. His website, China Financial Markets, is the primary source of information on the economic and financial scene of China for many outsiders to the country.

When asked about his unexpected transition from Wall Street to Beijing, Pettis calls it a “beautiful accident”. “Back in March of 2001, I had already been thinking of leaving Wall Street because it had gotten a little boring for me, and I was thinking about what I should do next. I wanted to spend a week in Asia, but I didn’t know where. By chance, that place turned out to be Beijing. After spending a week there for holiday, it occurred to me on the flight back that I made the decision to come to China for two years to teach. All of a sudden, I wanted to learn more about China”, recalls Pettis. After landing a teaching spot in Tsinghua University through a Chinese employee, Pettis would come to fall in love with Beijing.

What has kept Professor Pettis in Beijing? “If you’re interested in finance and economics like I am, then this is a very good place to be.

In the US or in Europe, you can pretty much learn everything about what’s happening in these countries. It doesn’t matter where you live, because the quality of information is very high and is quite transparent. So you could be in London, Beijing, Hong Kong, or Seoul and you’d get the same type of information. But with China it’s not true. You really do have to be in China to get a better sense of what’s happening within the country. Given that China is such an important economy and the second largest in the world, Beijing is a great place to be able to watch all of what is unfolding in the world economy”, says Pettis.

Transition to Peking University

After teaching for about two years at Tsinghua University, Professor Pettis made the decision to take his expertise to neighboring Peking University. “The fundamental difference between the two schools is that Tsinghua has an engineering school background, while PKU is more of liberal arts and sciences. I used to be a physicist, I was always interested in pure sciences, and I’ve also been very interested in humanities. Most importantly, PKU is one of the most elite schools in China.”

He certainly was not disappointed. “PKU is by far the most open university in China. The students here are very open, very sophisticated, and very intelligent. You’re more likely to find a finance student who loves literature or a math student who reads a lot of

history here. In my opinion, that’s more common in PKU than in other universities in China. Of course, the students here are going to end up running everything, whether it’s government, business or culture. So it’s crucial that they are skilled in a wide background.”

Uniquely, Professor Pettis attaches significant importance to his relationship with his students. He stays in touch with them from his teaching days at Columbia. “It’s useful because the co-head of Goldman Sachs’ Global Investment Management was one of my students at Columbia, and now he’s one of the most senior guys there. He’s extremely hopeful, so when I want him to meet one of my Chinese students, I’d just send him an email and when they’re in New York, he’ll always meet them. Usually somebody that senior, it takes forever to get somebody out of school to meet them.” In fact, says Pettis, one of his students just got hired. On the university’s vast student network, the professor explains: “We try to make sure we have those links, and PKU is a great school for that. As the top school in China, we have an amazing student network, and we try to make sure that our students stay in touch.”

Professor Pettis’ bond with his



From Wall Street to Peking University Michael Pettis’ Story

✉ Dohun Na

On a beautiful, cozy April afternoon, I was strolling by the scenic Gulou area near downtown Beijing. As I entered the residence

complex, I could not help but feel a sense of awe at the subtle fusion of traditional and modern Chinese architecture which was a feature of this modified courtyard house,

known as a ‘siheyuan’ in Chinese, is distinct to Beijing. This two-storied complex served as the home and office of one of Peking University’s star professors—Michael Pettis.

“A seasoned financial market analyst, he opened our mind by teaching both the theories and their application in real-life financial markets.”

students does not end here. Apart from his lectures in school, he holds a two-hour ‘class’ or a seminar every Sunday in his office or home. These ‘classes’ have neither grades nor credits, and are not part of the school curriculum. The purpose is for students to discuss the Chinese financial sector with the ultimate goal of coming up with an optimal financial system which best suits the Chinese economy.

Satria Sambijantoro, a master’s student in Guanghua School of Management says of the professor, “When Professor Pettis teaches, he controls the whole room not only through his knowledge, but also his charismatic public speaking style. A seasoned financial market analyst, he opened our mind by teaching both the theories and their application in real-life financial markets. In his Central Banking class, he encouraged students to debate and challenge his points, encouraging the usually reserved Chinese students to speak up while always being blunt and brutally honest to his students. PKU is very lucky to have him.”

Music Fanatic

Another interesting point is that Professor Pettis used to own a punk-rock nightclub in Beijing, though he swiftly points out that “we had a couple of punk rock bands, but what

we do is experimental music, underground music, and a lot of different stuff. We had Peking Opera and Jazz Nights. Journalists like to call it punk, because it sounds exciting that

way, but it’s not necessarily punk. In New York we might have called it the Downtown Scene.”

Apart from having owned a nightclub, Professor Pettis also owns a record label, as well as representing local bands as a talent manager. It turns out that his love for music stems from his childhood: “My family has always been very-music oriented. My mother loved classical European music and my father loved American Jazz, so in our house there was always music. When I first came to Beijing, there were some good musicians but there was a lack of confidence and a real music scene. The purpose of my club was to change that, to give these musicians a platform. A lot of people say that is was because of the club that the whole Beijing scene really took off. Now, Beijing has one of the best music scenes in the world.”

Advice

Reaching the status of a star economist is never an easy task. For aspiring economists, Professor Pettis says, “Read a lot of history”. As one of the biggest missing links in economics, he believes the falling out with history since the 1960s has become a huge loss for economics. In fact, Professor Pettis is not an economist. He was originally in the field of finance, but has become

famous as an economist because of his wide-ranging knowledge of economics history; therefore, being able to avoid many of the mistakes economists have made. “I always tell my students, if you are interested in economics, you have to read everything you can about economic and financial history. They’ll learn about the present, because economic and financial histories do not vary much. If you look at all the great economists, even contemporary ones, you will see that they know a lot about history. But most economists today don’t, and so they make really bad mistakes, they make all kinds of elementary errors; they say things cannot happen even though it’s happened many times before in history, and if they knew history they would know it can happen. Economists really need to learn a lot more history”.

As a top university in China, PKU has a lot to offer not only to local students, but to foreign students as well. For those contemplating of coming to PKU, Professor Pettis explains, “we have the best students in China, and we’re recognized as having the best students in China.” The real difference, says Pettis, lies in the quality of the students. If the students are of extremely high quality, then classes are going to be better. The learning that takes place outside of class would be much more significant as well. “When I went to Columbia as an undergrad, the very first speech that they told us was that 50% of what we learn is with our professors and 50% would be without the professors. From my point of view, coming to PKU, you’re going to learn a lot, because your classmates are going to be the best in China”, concludes a smiling Pettis.



Cosmopolitan Chats at PKU

✉ Junseo Lee

We are arguably all familiar with it. The Awkwardness. The Frustration. The Powerlessness. Yes, the globe seems more visited, yet less understood.

So in an era where this paradox resides, how can we make sense of each other?

In light of such questions Mads K. Olsen from Denmark and Ye Dan Dan from China have over the past months taken an initiative to create forum called ‘Cosmopolitan Chats’. Every second Friday of the month, they organize chats in the Jingyuan Garden in an attempt to

start a tradition of conversations at PKU by encouraging international and Chinese students to take part. I am interested in finding out why.

Q: So could you tell me a bit about your background of how you came up with this idea?

A: I am a Danish international exchange student, and I supposed that many other international students at PKU came here in hope of getting a more grounded understanding of how to view life in China. But quickly after my arrival, I found it difficult to reach out to the Chinese students, and I realized that many international students—even those

with a high command of Chinese—shared in this struggle.

In fact, it was very ironic to see many international students aspiring to engage in local life ending up clustering together with other internationals students, while at the time hearing about locals likewise eagerly, but inadequately, trying to reach out to international students. Both sides simply did not know “how to” and thus gave up.

So after identifying this challenge, the idea of these chats came alive as Dan Dan and I took the initiative to try to create a mutual learning community where interna-

tionals and locals could meet to try learning more about society through each other.

Q: What differentiates the Cosmopolitan Chats from other clubs on campus?

A: I think the motive in engaging in these chats is very different than with other school activities.

The reason for this can perhaps be explained by our logo that carries a reflection of how culture conditions perception:

When asking international students on what they associate with the logo, they would very systematically say “a human” or “a body”.

When asked the same question, the Chinese students, however, would in contrast say that they think of “learning” or “wisdom” as they see the character “文”. And this is quite interesting as we look at the very same geometrical figure, but interpret it so differently. Not because of age, gender, IQ or occupation, but because of our cultural background. So whether the logo is “a human” or “文” has no objective answer. It is a matter of cultural perspective that conditions the outcome of our encounters with the society around us.

So the chats are trying to illuminate and make sense of these ‘cultural conditions’, students do not come to the chats to improve a language, nor do they come to become skilled in winning a debate. They come because they wonder and because they are curious. The philosophy that surrounds these meetings and which attracts the Chinese and internationals to come is what makes the chats different from other student

clubs on campus.

Q: What do you wish to accomplish as meetings progress?

A: This is an interesting question. At this stage, I think it’s less important on what we try to understand through each other than how we try to understand it. For now, simply building up a community in which we can learn how to share our views despite possessing contrasting perspectives should be the goal in itself—regardless of the topic. These will come naturally.

Also, every gathering consists of new students with different backgrounds and interests, pre-assigning a common topic to be discussed could quickly impose ‘an expected outcome’ that might not suit the particular composition of the students on that day.

Therefore, we simply try to create a form of forum where the conversations can unfold as natural as possible with the deepest engagement as possible. And for this, students do not need to be experts in any academic field or fully updated on the news to ask questions. Most students often think “my life is nothing special” but as we have all been shaped by different socioeconomic, political, and cultural circumstances, and that our life stories and perspectives vary, so there is something we can all learn from each other. So for the most gatherings, chats have mainly started from the sharing of personal life aspirations, beliefs, opinions or wonders



that then will turn into a substantial topic. As students are a part of initiating the topics, they sometimes sit long after the announced hour to continue the chats. But there are of course many ways these chats can be organized and we are still learning how to find the best format. Not every conversation can grow by itself. So in that way you can see the chats as growing socio-cultural experiment that we are helping each other to make sense of. So we invite everyone with interest in this philosophy to take part in these conversations, and we hope over time that they can evolve into a conversational tradition here on campus. So it is not only about PKU. Neither is it about trying to understand any specific country’s culture. It is an attitude towards trying to better understand how to view issues globally that are affected by each other’s views towards these partly stemming from culture. So coming to these chats is more than just having a chat session. It is also manifestation of a collective desire to engage with each other beyond our own socio-cultural sphere. To try to learn, to listen, to share, and encourage the surrounding communities to follow.

Screening of LGBT Movies at PKU

✉ Anastasiia Ilina

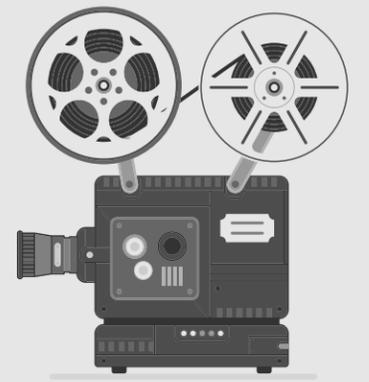
During the spring semester of 2016, PKU students were invited to the screenings of two movies concerning LGBT issues in China: *Our Marriages: When Lesbians Marry Gay Men* and *Mamma Rainbow*. Both movies concerned a topic that raises discussion all over the world, although in China it is officially muted and an issue that not many who talk about or understand it in its entirety.

There are an estimated 50 million LGBT people in China. That is almost the whole population of Italy; it is twice the population of Australia and five times the population of New York. Still their voices are not heard. One of the students in Peking University shared with us her thoughts, “there is still misunderstanding and discrimination. The reason behind all this is hard to tell. It is a combination of the lack of scientific and healthy education on LGBT in school. People seldom talk about it in public just as they seldom talk about sex.” Needless to say, these screenings were two important events that directly concerned and openly discussed LGBT issues on campus.



Imagine a typical apartment in a city, with the TV is playing in the background, four women are seated in their kitchen over a meal. Nothing out of the ordinary, except these four women are all married to four different men. They don’t share property with them, the rarely communicate with them, and in the end, they have very little in common. To the non-Chinese viewer, “Our Marriages: When Lesbians Marry Gay Men” may at first seem difficult to understand. Why should women marry men that they did not love and felt no connection to? The answer to the questions lies in the roots of Chinese society. All four women agree that they decided to get involved in the ‘contract marriage’ scheme for the sake of their parents. They are considering how neighbors and society view their parents. One of the four women was behind the idea of ‘contract marriage’.

She decided to set up an online chat where gay men can find women to marry. Their marriage, although fictitious would once and for all stop any questions about their parents. The documentary takes us through the marriages of these



four women. They are smiling for the camera, but their smiles are only sincere when they are sitting around the table together. When the screening was over the director, He Xiaopei, who was flooded with questions on the topic of her movie. Not only is Ms. He a director, but she is also an activist that addresses issues concerning women. Her NGO Pink Space Sexuality Research Center in Beijing has been active since 2007. During the Q&A session she spoke out that screening of these movies is not an easy process. They are shown at film festivals and private screenings, such as ours, but it is not easy to find an understanding audience.

The question of how many people in China accept members of the LGBT community is challenging to answer, but surveys in different regions have been conducted on the perception of the LGBT community. A 2012 opinion poll of 1502 residents of Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou conducted by the UNDP showed that only 31% of the participants accept gays and lesbians. Only 27% of all survey participants indicated that there should be legal protection for sexual minorities. Compared to other countries where the acceptance of homosexuality is higher, China is still lagging

“ We all share the same danger of being oppressed as individuals, so in this case, fighting for the rights of minority group is beneficial for us all. ”

ing behind.

Yet according to the 2016 survey Being LGBTI in China—A National Survey on Social Attitudes towards Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression—conducted by United Nations Development Programme and Department of Sociology, Peking University, the overwhelming majority (70%) does not support the pathological view of homosexuality and stereotype-based prejudices against LGBTI people, and nearly 85% support legalization of same-sex marriage. This significant change, according to Professor Wu Lijuan, survey leader from PKU, is due to the increasingly open attitude of the younger generation, since the Internet-based and snowball-sampling method have brought more percentage of younger respondents.

The second documentary *Mama Rainbow* focuses not as much on the members of the LGBT community as much on their mothers. Often overseen is the difficulties that these mothers experience when their children ‘come out of the closet’. *Mama Rainbow* follows through the days of mothers, who have chosen to support their children, regardless of their sexual orientation. One of them says in the movie, “Children don’t ask for much, they just want us to accept them”. When asked what he hopes to achieve with his movie, the director Fan Popo,

shared that he hopes his documentary will help more members of the LGBT community to reveal themselves to their parents. He was happy that some viewers have

already contacted him to thank him for helping their parents understand who they are. When discussing his feeling from back then, he says it was “Like you are walking down a smaller path instead of taking the main road. Now even the smaller path is unavailable.”

When asking the people behind the screenings about how they came up with the idea to organize such an event, they all admitted to having the idea in the back of their mind for a while. One student organizer involved in the event said, “During my time studying in UCL, there was a very active LGBT society with a lot of activities and meetings that raised awareness about LGBT issues, discrimination and also helped LGBT members”. Indeed, these issues need to be addressed more often, as they do not only support those who are part of the LGBT community, but they also educate those straight individuals who tend to judge others quickly yet without understanding. Another student organizer of this event, when asked about the goals of these events, noted that they aimed to “make this issue more visible, be it gay marriage, homophobia, or transgender issues; we want to make it as open as possible and to promote dialogues and discussion around it.” She continued, “Peking University, which is arguable the best university in China, is the best platform to

launch these type of activities”.

In fact, even before the launching of *Our Marriages* and *Mama Rainbow*, there has already been open discussions and screening activities focusing on LGBTQIA+ issues in Peking University. ColorsWorld, PKU student research association of gender diversity, has organized a wide range of gatherings on gender and sexual minorities, including the filming of *The Danish Girl*, a story of a transgender woman struggling for the public acceptance of her new identity; the story-sharing of the theme woman, with all the participants speaking out female experiences of different social and sexual identities; the forum specially for IDAHOT (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia), with the participation of three leading individuals of LGBT organizations in Beijing. Beside these activities, members of ColorsWorld have also devoted time and effort in designing their original breathing mask with printed letters “same love”, as well as in their project Magic Closet, in which they stay online every Friday evening to work with individuals of all sexual identities with emotional sufferings.

The participants of ColorsWorld belong to various gender and sexual identities, and are not necessarily gays or lesbians. ‘Durian’, one of ColorsWorld’s founding members, has explained to the followers in an article why she insisted in joining ColorsWorld as a straight female, answering that being in ColorsWorld since December 2014 is a rewarding experience: “we all share the same danger of being oppressed as individuals, so in this case, fighting for the rights of minority group is beneficial for us all.”

Joint Evening Performance by Students of Peking University and Jesus College, University of Cambridge

北京大学-剑桥大学耶稣学院学生联合演出



Music is Powerful Performance by the University of Cambridge Choir

Yu Wufei

On April 15, 2016, PKU students were charmed by songs performed by the Choir of Jesus College, University of Cambridge. The choir gave a brief performance at the launch ceremony of the Cambridge-Peking University China Centre in the morning, followed by the agreement signing by leaders from the two universities. The choirs are one of the notable features of Cambridge University, and the Jesus College Choir is one of the most well-known for its global

tours and music recordings sold all over the world. The choir’s visit symbolizes the deep collaboration between Cambridge and PKU, and the choir itself is also eager to form a closer bond with artistic groups in PKU. At night, during the Joint Evening Performance by Students of Peking University and Jesus College, University of Cambridge, the choir presented five items. The choir also sang “You Raise Me Up” together with the PKU Student Choir. That night, their styles altered smoothly between religious, folk, and pop

music.

The audience who attended were deeply impressed by their performance and some audience members said that the performance was like resonance from the heaven. The concert was definitely an auditory feast. It also provided an opportunity for PKU students to get a closer look at the Choir of Jesus College, University of Cambridge. As for their own story, the choir has defined the members’ lives, and also spreads the spirit of music to local communities and the world, encouraging the

children to move on with the music they have performed.

Rooted in Cambridge

Mark Turner Williams, the director of the choir, told us that the choir consists of members from different majors ranging from law, music, medicine, engineering and others in the Jesus College. They also come from all over the world, including the United Kingdom, India, Ghana, China to name a few. Moreover, foreign students are taking up significant positions in the

choir, for instance, one of the choir members is from Hong Kong. They got together in the choir for the same reason: music and happiness, not as a profession. It inspires them to make great commitment to the choir. The members rehearse two hours a day, from 5pm to 7pm, five days a week, and perform religious music in the 800-year-old chapel on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The choir takes up quite a lot of their spare time. It may well shape their college life and provide them with a unique experience. "They

changed a lot. They grasped the sense of focus and confidence from their performance. They learn how to project themselves" said Mr. Williams. He also mentioned that it is the choir that has assisted them in learning about self-discipline, to balance between class assignments and choir. Though there may be conflict between their choir practice and their schooling, they gradually picked up how to guarantee both and balance the priorities.

Tours Around the World

When it comes to their global charitable efforts, both the direc-

tor and the members have much to say. Experiencing the outside world is a major reason that attracts new members, and it usually offers them the most unforgettable moments in their choir life. "I can still recall the time when we met with the first lady of Sri Lanka and we sang Christmas music in the tropical sunset during Christmas time, instead of the dark and cold eve in Great Britain, which was memorable" Sapphire, a member of the choir, said with excitement. Amatey, also a member of the choir, added that they were conducting workshop with the local kids in Sri Lanka and taught songs to those school children, during which he was greatly moved by the kids there. In this way, they learn about different cultures and countries, and get to know how people behave in different contexts.

"Not everyone in the world has access to music education, and we also know that singing makes us happy and feel better. The main idea is to bring happiness to those who do not ordinarily have the opportunity." The director explains that the purpose of the educational projects abroad. The Choirs of Jesus College, University of Cambridge, generously utilizes its music education in the UK and shares it with India and Sri Lanka. As for the most unforgettable moment, the director said it was with the Indian children living in slums last year. "They can't afford to eat. They don't live in houses. They have nothing. But we saw how music can make them joyful. It was moving," he said. "We raised money but when we left the groups, they

could not rehearse every week with a choir leader in India. So we paid professional India musicians for their kids. For the next two years, they can rehearse by themselves." He continued to narrate their story. Eventually, the choirs let their influence last and they have, to some extent, built a choir for the local community. Thus in many aspects, Mr. Williams regards India as an extremely powerful experience, and he also feels that music can be more

powerful than expected.

Other than educational projects, there are also abundant performance opportunities abroad. Beijing was part of a six-day Far East trip and before arriving in Beijing, they performed in Hong Kong. "The Choir of Peking University is really good", Mr. Williams commented, "they learn everything by heart and they are skillful in singing." He also expressed the strong desire to have further cooperation with the artistic

groups in PKU in the near future.

Music is powerful, it can help universities that are miles away to forge closer bonds; music is powerful, it can breed generations of choir lovers and generate the everlasting musical context in community; music is powerful, it can spread the seed of happiness that spans the globe. Farewell the Choir of Jesus College from Cambridge, we believe that we will see you again soon at PKU.



Translating to Fight Rare Diseases PKU's Medical Translation Association

✉ Wei Wei

Peking University Medical Translation Association (PKUMTA) is a voluntary translation group founded by students majoring in Biomedical English. Established in 2013, the association originally aimed at promoting the international influ-

ence of Peking University's Third Hospital by translating the Chinese medical news published on its official website into English. After a period of growth and development, the association began to recruit students who are both passionate about and qualified for medical transla-

tion from all majors in the Peking University Health Science Center. Meanwhile, diverse new translation programs were also launched.

With the help from the Chinese Organization for Rare Disorders (CORD), an NGO focused on rare diseases in China, a novel trans-



lation program was introduced in 2015. PKUMTA was entrusted with the task of providing reliable translated medical materials for a rare disease in China website. The job is mainly to translate the latest research news of rare diseases from English to Chinese, in other words, to introduce the important information of rare disease to China.

“ Translation work itself may not be as interesting as people imagined. A lot of medical terminology and research have to be checked and rechecked carefully to ensure accuracy in translating, which is a basic attitude of high academic standard and strong social responsibility. ”

Although there is no single widely-recognized definition for rare diseases, or orphan diseases, they basically refer to disorders with low prevalence rate, only affecting small percentage of the population. The definition of rare diseases varies in different countries across the world with the World Health Organization (WHO) defining diseases with patients accounting for 0.65% to 1% of the total population as rare diseases. Some other definitions also involve other factors such as the existing treatments and the severity of the disorder. Most of the rare diseases are genetic, therefore, after the symptoms appear at a certain stage, the disease often appears chronic throughout the patient's entire life. There are more than seven

thousand diseases that have been recognized as rare diseases by US National Institutes of Health, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Huntington's disease.

However, only a limited number of medication or other treatments have been studied and developed. Currently, only a minority of the rare diseases can be treated effec-

tively, even in the nations with advanced medical technology. So far, China does not have an official definition of rare diseases since there has not been adequate reliable domestic studies. According to the WHO and some other foreign research data, it is estimated that nearly ten million people are suffering from rare diseases in China. Major rare diseases in China include phenylketonuria, thalassemia, Osteogenesis imperfecta, hyperammonemia, Organic academia, and Wilson's disease. Although the incidence of a single rare disease is low, as a total, rare diseases are a threat to a significant number of people's living quality in China.

In spite of the huge number of cases across the country and the

emerging attention to rare diseases, developments in the relevant work in China such as scientific research, government policy, regulations, and social support remain slow. A large group of rare disease patients are still struggling without any official aid. Under these circumstances, attention from all areas of society is advocated and important for improving people's life.

Since the public, the patients, and sometimes even the health professionals lack abundant understanding of many rare diseases, updated and reliable medical information is of enormous importance. Trying to meet the immense requirement, PKUMTA's volunteering translation program is one of the activities aimed at helping promulgate medical information with good quality, and raise public awareness of rare diseases in China.

The volunteering program was officially launched during the summer vacation in 2015, and was warmly welcomed by the entire translation association. The whole association was divided into several groups with two proofreaders in each group. Proofreaders are those medical students with relatively higher English proficiency and abundant editing experience. Every week, English articles from various reliable sources, comprising of all sorts of medical contents are assigned to and accomplished by specific groups. The articles cover a wide range of topics concerning various rare diseases, such as new research breakthrough in disease mechanism, new orphan drugs approved by the

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), new promising clinical trials introduction, and new policies released all over the world.

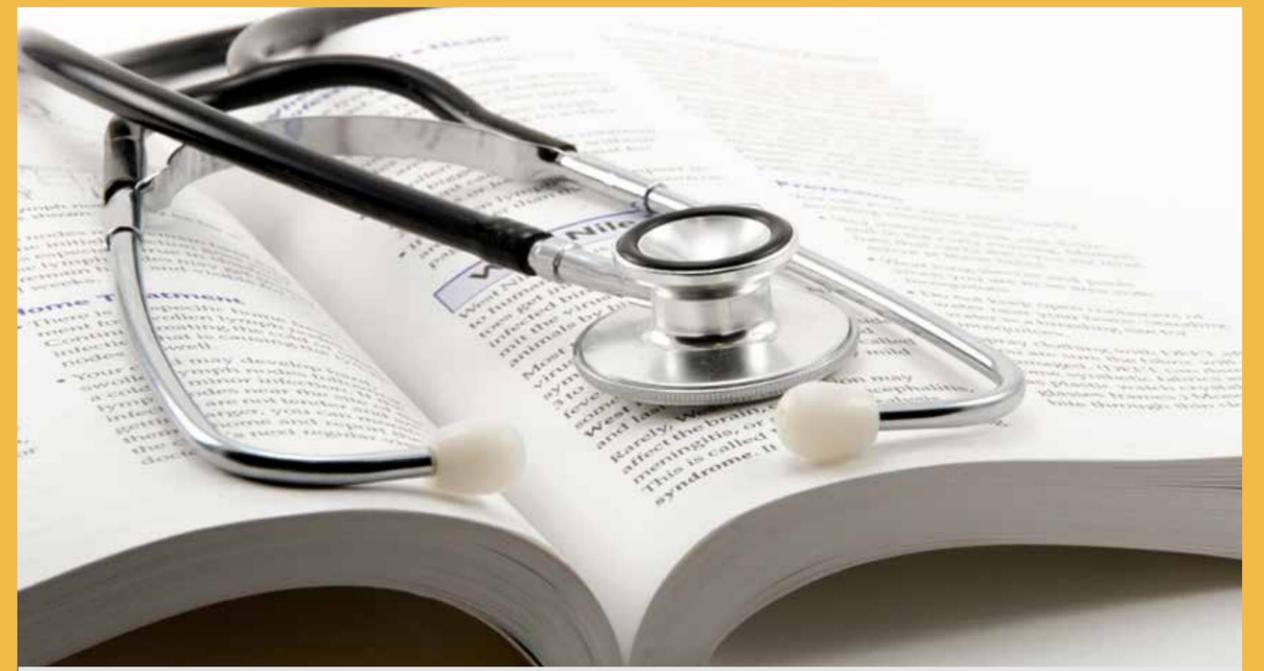
One of the association members said, "Translation work itself may not be as interesting as people imagined. A lot of medical terminology and research have to be checked and rechecked carefully to ensure accuracy in translating, which is a basic attitude of high academic standard and strong social responsibility." However, she perceived the hard work not as a burden but more as a glorious mission. "Every time I think of helpless patients and their family and friends, I strongly feel that as a medical student, I am obliged to help. Some of the translated news may not be as supportive as effective medication, but it conveys hope, care, company, and support. These may not cure the patients, but

will help comfort those who suffer."

Most of the current leaders of the association are majoring in Biomedical English, which means that they are not being cultivated to be medical practitioners; neither surgeons nor physicians. "We may not be giving prescriptions or doing operations to help save lives, but there are always various ways to fulfil our social responsibilities." It is widely believed that medical humanities play an indispensable part in modern medicine. It is appreciated that modern medical science has achieved remarkable progress in lengthening life span and improving living quality. Nevertheless, medical science has its own limitations. "To cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always." Translating the medical information of rare diseases is definitely one way to comfort and help millions.

Former leader of CORD news translating branch, Hu Ying, commented that rare diseases translation is a long-term voluntary course. She expressed her gratitude and compliments for PKUMTA's cooperation with CORD, and the upholding of the passion and perseverance in the voluntary translation work as a student association.

"Originally, I joined the association in order to practice my translation ability, improve my English, and accumulate medical knowledge. After getting to understand the job, I realized that what we are doing was far more meaningful and satisfying than the translation itself or our self-development." Another association member said, "There is a limit to our ability and our voice as students, but our effort, support, and care as volunteers weigh much more."



PKU Students Run Free Clinic for the Needy

✉ Sienna Luk

The Student Run Free Clinic (SRFC) is a student organization founded on December 29, 2010, at the PKU Health Science Center. As the pioneer of a student-run free clinic in the whole country, the clinic aims to provide medical care to disadvantaged groups. For example, they hope to help people with low incomes and offer them free examinations for minor ailments; in addition to chronic disease prevention, and public health education. Moreover, within the campus, they

sometimes hold academic seminars and provide a platform for students to discuss medical humanities. So far, they have recruited more than 400 volunteers to join this big family, and more than hundreds of patients have benefited from their care.

As the saying goes "Rome was not built in one day". Being the forerunner of student-run free clinic in China, the founders (a group of six people at the beginning) have come a long way and have confronted various challenges to finally

establish the clinic with their great spirit. No doubt they have questioned themselves whether the whole idea of free clinic could actually work in China. Nevertheless, by doing a lot of study on the plan's feasibility, discussion with professors and experts, and a few trial implementations, they have proved their idea to be worth giving a try. Most important, the founders emulated and absorb the precious experience from American student-run free clinics. Also, their hard work eventually promoted the creation

of more student-run free clinics in other schools. In short, the founders of SRFC have demonstrated that their passion to help the vulnerable and to shoulder social responsibilities can result in huge social welfare gains.

Operation Day

On the last Saturday of every month, there is an 'operation day', in other words, the free clinic day. Up to now, the events have been held 47 times. As one of the volunteers in the organization, I have attended the event in person, and I still can recall that in the early morning, there are already students busy preparing the equipment for the event held in the school infirmary. At 9 a.m., patients (who usually are the janitors, cleaners, or other workers serving the campus) began to appear at the infirmary. The medical students first led the patients do some simple examination, such as measuring their blood pressure and blood sugar level. Then, near the entrance is a small counter where patients can apply for medical expense reimbursement. The clinic's policy is that when expense is under 300 yuan, patients can reimburse 90% of the expense; and every patient can have a reimburse limit of 600 yuan.

Within a short time, the hall of the infirmary is crowded; students with white coats passing through the small aisle busy informing patients on health knowledge. For the first-time patient, volunteers would have them go through a full body

examination and record their medical history. Finally, patients can seek diagnosis and professional medical advice from the clinic's doctors.

Since each patient has different extent of illness, the clinic adopts health concepts like 'three steps prevention' and 'general practice' into their services; which means that they categorize the patients into three labels, and to each label, patients would receive different kind of care. Primary prevention offers patients certain amount of financial support, annual body examination and health inquiry; patient with chronic diseases are classified in the secondary prevention group and are provided with advanced and precise medical advice; and tertiary prevention is directed at severely ill patients, as the clinic would not only assist them with medical information, but also financial aid by seeking donations. Furthermore, all patients are assigned a volunteer, whose work is to monitor each patient's health condition by calling or visit the patient monthly. The volunteer would also remind them to go for health checkups regularly. This little move between patients and volunteers not only bridges the gap, but give patients whole support and counsel.

Community Service

The service of clinic is not limited to within the campus, but also further extended to the community; for example, holding educational seminars in senior apartments, assisting tobacco control, and rais-

ing awareness of children's hygiene problem. In addition, the clinic would also conduct a community survey in order to identify what the society really needs. For instance, in 2013, the clinic successfully conducted a project to study potential factors that affect migrant workers seeking medical treatment. By collecting questionnaires and studying the statistics, the result has effectively reflected the situation of migrant workers to a certain extent.

In addition, recently, the clinic along with a student organization in Tsinghua University (THU) are holding a voluntary event to provide treatment to janitors and securities working in the THU campus as well.

Overseas Visits

The idea of a free clinic is not a new concept in the US. With extremely high charges for medical care, free clinics serve as a great assistance to people who do not have medical insurance. For example, Crimson Care Collaborative (CCC) is a SRFC of Harvard Medical school and Massachusetts general hospital (MGH). Fully staffed by students and hospital provided sources, CCC assists the hospital in treating emergency patients, thus, covering more patients in need.

In 2010, given the topic "Making it happen—Building a Student Run Free Clinic in Beijing", the founders of SRFC gave a speech in the opening ceremony of the third American Student Run Free Clinic Conference.



In attempt to broaden their methodology for running the clinic, they also visited five free clinics in the US, and summed up what they have learned to be used in future preparation. In 2013, students from the organization attended the Society of SRFC International Conference in San Antonio, US, along with other elite schools, such as Harvard, Dartmouth, Columbia University, and Tufts University.

Recent Events

This summer, the clinic has gathered a group of students to volunteer in Guizhou province. More precisely, they are heading to a village called Dimen, which is also entitled 'a village at the edge of time'. Since the place is in a remote location and is isolated from the outside world, medical techniques are not as well developed there; villagers often seek non-standard care due to the lack of professional care. Therefore, the mission for the student volunteers is to improve local residents' quality of life.

Last year, corresponding to the clinic's community guidelines, they have submitted a study (directed by the School of Public Health) to gather information of the village's health background, including their diet, lifestyle, and general health status. The conclusion of the study indicated that the villagers suffer from nutrition imbalance due to their single dietary structure and overlaboring in agricultural work, combined with the lack of advanced medication. The study has fur-



ther helped the voluntary event by realizing the kind of the medical treatment that the villagers need, and what medical equipment they are lacking; the study also provided constructive feedback to other similar cases in improving rural health service.

Conclusion

Recalling that in the opening ceremony of the SRFC, Ke Yang, Dean of PKUHSC mentioned that it is actually not the first instance where students run a free clinic in PKU's history. That is, during the Chinese Liberation War in 1947, a health station was set up by teachers and students in the western suburb of Beijing. They not only provided medical services to people, but also conducted a lot of public health surveys in order to improve the quality of life at that time. Fifty

years later, those who have served in the free clinic recall that they now realize how influential the activity was to their lives. Some say that they had nurtured the virtue of helping people.

Today is an era where modern medical technology prevails. Student volunteers in the free clinic probably can acquire advanced skills and do more for the patients than the last generation; but what they should learn from the last generation is the spirit of self-sacrifice, ready to extend their hands to the needy at any moment. Working in the clinic provides those medical students, future doctors, an opportunity to cope with diseases, to gain their medical knowledge, and most importantly, to build relationships with their patients.

For students aspiring to become great doctors in the future, the clinic serves as a good starting point.

Cambridge Peking University China Center Established

✉ Zhong Xue

On April 15, 2016, the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University along with other delegates visited Peking University (PKU) and participated in a series of activities. During their visit, the Cambridge Peking University China Center was officially established.

There has been past collaboration between Cambridge and PKU, with PKU offering Chinese courses for Cambridge students. The Cambridge Peking University China Center, co-established by PKU and Cambridge and located at the Jesus College of Cambridge University, aims to undertake independent and innovative research, establish think tanks for 'contemporary China and the world' issues in Cambridge, cultivate talents with deep under-

standing of China, and enhance cultural communication and mutual understanding between China and the West.

After the performances by the Jesus College Students Choir, Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, offered a warm welcome to the guests. Then several speeches were delivered by Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, and other representatives from both China and the UK.

President Lin warmly welcomed the guests from Jesus College Cambridge. He referred to the achievements and collaboration of both universities, which are both renowned institutions in their respective countries, and said he looked forward to the success of the Cambridge Peking University China Center. Liu Xiaoming, Chinese Ambassador to

the UK, as well as Mark Gooding, the British Embassy Minister Counselor, emphasized the importance of an international perspective and bilateral relationship. They expressed their hope that the China Center would promote students' academic achievements and cultural communication. The speeches were concluded by Ian White, Master of Jesus College, and Lezek Borysiewicz, Vice Chancellor of Cambridge, remarking that good collaboration between the two institutions and wishing that the new China Center would be a huge success.

In the end, Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, and Ian White, Master of Jesus College Cambridge, signed the agreement for the Cambridge Peking University China Center.

剑桥北京大学中国中心启动仪式

Launch Ceremony for the Cambridge Peking University China Centre





Hong Kong University Delegation Visits PKU

✎ Wang Shan

On April 21, 2016, Professor Peter Mathieson, President of Hong Kong University (HKU), and a number of faculty heads from HKU visited Peking University (PKU). Professor Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, warmly received them at Linhuxuan. Professor Cai Hongbin, Dean of the Guanghua School of Management, Professor Chen Xiaoyu, Dean of the School of Education, and Dr. Xia Hongwei, Director of the Office for Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Affairs, were also present at the event.

The HKU delegation was composed of delegates from different departments. This visit is meant

to develop substantive exchanges and cooperation between HKU and PKU. After taking a group photo, the two delegations held a discussion on the past and potential cooperation in talent cultivation, scientific research, and other fields between the two universities.

President Mathieson pointed out that PKU and HKU have been actively communicating and cooperating with each other in many fields, and he believed that the two universities can continue to make progress on enhancing communication and promoting mutual understanding. President Mathieson explained his two main objectives of this visit were to renew the undergradu-

ate exchange agreement and to conduct in-depth and detailed communication with PKU about future cooperation in the areas of medicine, engineering, education, and others.

President Lin Jianhua extended a warm welcome to the HKU delegation and highly praised the past progress and achievements that cooperation had brought to the two universities. He emphasized that it is necessary to enhance cooperation in aspects such as talent cultivation and scientific research, as well as to promote communication in more fields. This will deepen bilateral relations, so as to bring about mutual progress.

After the discussion, President Peter William Mathieson and President Lin Jianhua signed the renewed undergraduate exchange agreement. Afterwards, the different delegates from different departments of HKU delegation visited the corresponding

departments of PKU and explored potential areas for cooperation with PKU.

Professor Peter Mathieson took over as the 15th president of the University of Hong Kong in April 2014. Peking University is the first

mainland university that he visited after he was sworn in as president of HKU, and this is his second visit to PKU. This visit enhanced mutual understanding and promoted further cooperation between the two universities.

Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development Established

✎ Joseph Olivier Mendo'o

On April 29, 2016, the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development (ISSCAD) was established at Peking University. The ceremony was presided over by Li Yansong, Vice President of Peking University. Distinguished state officials and professionals attended the launching ceremony, including Lin Yifu, Honorary President of the National School of Development and Dean of ISSCAD; Zhang Xiangchen, Deputy Representative of International Trade Negotiations of the Ministry of Commerce; Alain Noudehou, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative; and numerous ambassadors from African countries.

President Xi Jinping made a solemn commitment last year at the United Nations Roundtable Conference on South-South Coop-

eration, and he stated that China would enhance cooperation among developing countries. The establishment of ISSCAD, which was annou-

nced during the conference, aims to implement this promise. As the year 2016 marks the launching of the Sustainable Development Agenda



2030, the move won widespread international acclaim.

According to Mr. Zhang Xianguan, the institute will be the most attractive national development research institute as well as a high-end training base in developing countries, and it will become the most

dynamic platform for the communication among developing countries.

ISSCAD is one of Peking University's contributions to China's innovation and breakthroughs in south-south cooperation and mutual learning between the various groups. That is the reason why the estab-

lishment of ISSCAD required a lot of hard work by many different parties, including the Ministry of Commerce. ISSCAD aims at providing academic degree education and training for scholars, government officials from developing countries, and national development professionals.

of India.

Not long before, on May 26, 2016, H.E. Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, visited PKU as a sequel to the Ambassador's visit. The President attended the Roundtable Conference of Presidents of Chinese and Indian Universities and gave a speech. Yuan Guiren, Minister of Education of China, and presidents of several of the most

selective universities of China and India were present at the conference. The university presidents who were present delivered speeches around many important topics, including how to create world-class universities through greater support of academic research, how to encourage technological innovation, and how to enhance Sino-Indian cooperation in education and technology. Presi-

dent Mukherjee and Minister Yuan both expressed their wishes for Chinese and Indian universities to enhance collaboration and deepen mutual understanding.

The series of meetings and speeches are expected to further promote communication and collaboration between Chinese and Indian top universities; therefore, they are of great significance to both countries.

Recent Advancements in Sino-Indian Collaboration on Education

✎ Xin Yuan

On April 14, 2016, H.E. Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Indian Ambassador to China, visited Peking University (PKU). Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, along with Ning Qi, Dean of the School of Foreign Languages, and other PKU staff received the guest and hosted the reception in the west hall of Linhexuan. The meeting promoted communication between universities in both countries and helped strengthen Sino-Indian relationship.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Gokhale is the new Indian Ambassador to China, and this is his first visit to PKU. Mr. Gokhale joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1981. His previous diplomatic assignments include postings in Hong Kong, Hanoi, Beijing, and New York. He was High Commissioner of India to Malaysia from January 2010 to October 2013.

From October 2013 to January 2016, he was the Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Germany.

During the meeting, the Ambassador mentioned that the President of India attaches great importance to communication between universities in both countries. He also

brought forward the need for Indian professors to visit China to deepen their understanding of education on both sides. Vice President Li agreed with the Ambassador's proposals and added that in 2003, PKU had welcomed the visit of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister



PKU Delegation Attends the NEAR Korea China Japan Seoul Process

✎ Ge Nan

From the 22nd to 24th of April, 2016, a Peking University (PKU) delegation led by Professor Jia Qingguo attended the first meeting of the NEAR Korea-China-Japan Seoul Process.

The trilateral dialogue was advocated by the North East Asian Research (NEAR) Foundation. The Seoul Process serves as a platform for promoting communication and cooperation between renowned think tanks and scholars from South Korea, China, and Japan. Mutual trust among the academic world promotes the peaceful development and prosperity of Northeast Asian. The Chinese delegation was led by Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of the School of International Studies at



PKU.

The opening ceremony was hosted by Mr. Duck-Koo Chung, Chairman of NEAR and former Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy for the Republic of Korea. Representatives of Korean, Chinese and Japanese delegations delivered keynote speeches separately.

In Professor Jia's presentation, he spoke highly of the Seoul Process. He pointed out that considering the complicated environment, Seoul Process was the right thing to do at the suitable time and place. After the ceremony, scholars carried out heated discussions and debates concerning history, safety and econo-

mic issues. During the course of the meeting, the scholars came to many conclusions.

The governments of South Korea, China, and Japan have attached great significance to the Seoul Process. Yun Byung-se, Foreign Affairs Minister of South Korea; Qiu Guohong, China's Ambassador to South Korea; Koro Bessho, Japan's Ambassador to South Korea; and Lee

Hong-koo, former Prime Minister of South Korea attended and addressed the meeting. Other members of the Chinese delegation included Professor Chi Fulin, President of China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD); Professor Shi Yinhong from Renmin University; Professor Chu Shulong from Tsinghua University; Zhang Tuosheng, research fellow from China Foundation for

International and Strategic Studies; Professor Zhang Liqin from Central University of Finance and Economics; Professor Zhang Haibin from Peking University; Wang Yanxing, former secretary of China Banking Association; Chu Xiaobo, Associate Professor from Peking University; and Song Junying, associate researcher from China Institute of International Studies.



The Fifth Symposium on Liquid Crystal Photonics 2016 at Peking University

✎ Peng Xiao

From April 22 to the 24, 2016, the 5th Symposium on Liquid Crystal Photonics (SLCP) 2016 was hosted on campus by the College of Engineering of Peking University (PKU).

SLCP was established by the Society for Information Display (SID), the Optical Society of America (OSA), the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and other institutions. Previous SLCPs have

been held in Shanghai, Chengdu, and other cities in China, inviting international experts in the field of liquid crystal photonics to discuss 3D, liquid crystal displays (LCD), and other academic frontiers. This year, the large-scale symposium is known for its rich content, wide geographical coverage, and intense publicity. The theme of the seminar is about the newest research findings and achievements in the field of Liquid Crystal Photonics. Topics on liquid crystal materials, liquid crystal laser, and three-dimensional display were discussed in depth.

Experts from many universities abroad were invited, including the University of Florida from the United States, Nagoya University from Japan, and Nanyang Technological University from Singapore. Additionally, the SLCP attracted universities from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China to

participate, and it also appealed to domestic corporations. Overall, more than 200 experts and scholars attended this conference.

The experts and scholars from different industries served as the Honorary President of this symposium: Zhou Qifeng, Peking University's former President; Wu Shicong, Professor at University of Florida; and Dong Youmei, Executive Vice President of BOE Technology Group Company Limited. Such cooperation brought expertise across various fields and even across continents around the world. This was a platform for participants to share their experiences and exchange ideas. It also provided a great opportunity for these participants to discuss potential collaborations in the future. These participating universities, research institutions, and corporations all collaborated to ensure the success of this conference.



Humanitarian Anthropology in Global Communication

✎ Yue Xin

What would I do if I were an anthropologist? Fu Anzhi, a sophomore from the Department of Sociology, was carefully thinking about this question when she sat in the lecture hall. On stage were Professor Wang Mingming, Professor of Social Anthropology, Professor David Parkin, a prominent anthropologist from the University of London, as well as one of Professor Wang's mentors. Keynote speaker Professor Parkin spoke about his research on the subject of holistic anthropology, on which he published the book *The Sacred Void* in 1991. On May 14, 2016, Professor Parkin gave a series of lectures at Peking University on anthropology, globalization, and humanism.

Entering the era of soft power

"National isolation in earlier times is no longer possible," Professor Parkin started his keynote speech by analyzing how global affairs have been vastly changed by the digital revolution. As people can communicate more rapidly, they have begun to rethink the core values of supremacy and consumerism in society. Soft power, as a strategic alternative, has replaced bombs to become the ideal of diplomatic culture, yet there are also claims that it has become a softer version of supremacy, in other words, cynical strategy.

However, according to Professor Parkin, humanitarianism has already challenged global rhetoric, bringing a sense of tolerance and respect to the diplomatic language system, even though the system is still to some extent a strategy. Anthropologists have the obligation to strive for soft power, as in this way the increasing application

of tolerant rhetoric would take an active stance and gradually change the paradigm of global interactions.

The humble human and the arrogant human

Post-humanism has two perspectives: The humble human and the arrogant human. While 'the humble human' stresses ethical issue and sees humans as the connection force between natural forces, 'the arrogant human' redefines humans as absolute agents, through new technologies of communication and control.

Artificial intelligence and medical advances have recursively shaped human intentions and enlarged the boundaries of humanity, forcing us to think that 'we' reinvented 'us'. Under these circumstances, both perspectives of post-humanism are valid, but the idea of

autonomous absolute agents is being challenged. Ethnographic research has discovered that in small local communities, individuals share the identity of animals or even unanimous object through social relationships, which reveals that relativism is the foundation of anthropology. Because of this, instead of quantizing the research, scholars should celebrate the fact that anthropology falls into several identities.

Start small and celebrate the difference

According to Professor Parkin, the main rules of empirical method are as follows: small group study; voice, language and reflexivity; celebrating difference; 'good faith' and trust. Since the 1970s, economists and sociologists have questioned the power of business corporations, as they tell the customers what they need to buy without listening to their voice. As we come to the time when creating larger institution with fewer people has become an unquestionable ideology, it is more crucial for us to reconsider what society's priorities should be.

Goods and services are not only to be sold and used. Questioning the process of the provision of goods and services has become the core value of post-humanism, leading to the growing consideration of combining large-scale global communication and small local groups. Empirical anthropologists find it crucial to encourage small groups to have a voice, and they also value the importance of

local languages within these groups. Himself mastering three African aboriginal languages, Professor Parkin shared an example of the World Health Organization working in the fields, where language gives way to the small groups, bringing them inspiration and aspiration.

In terms of international communication, anthropologists are striving to be 'ambassadors of diversity'. Professor Parkin continued to explain, "Encounter social, cultural, and gender differences among people, celebrate differences, and enrich diversity."

Redefine humanitarian ethos

From Radcliffe Brown to Malinowski to Evans Pritchard, classical anthropology has gradually developed, forming the methodology of ethnographic field research. In contrast with the classic methodology of non-interference, contemporary anthropologists are increasingly involved in global issues, including poverty, famine, and refugee issues. There have been examples of anthropologists staying in local communities, helping to end the widely condemned Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Another significant redefinition is that anthropologists, as well as local communities, are both the

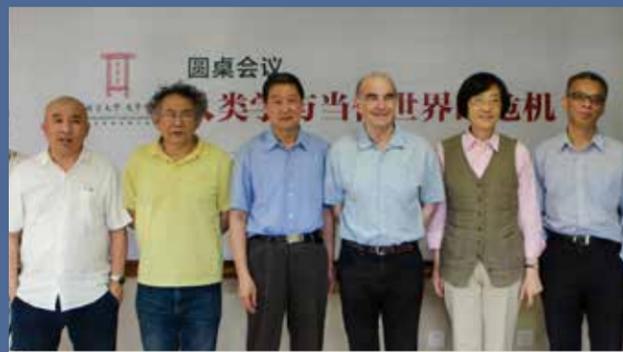
researcher and the researched. While local communities involve in the ethnographic creation by providing authentic materials and explanations, anthropologists also step out of the outdated 'self-others' hypothesis, looking through their own identities and behaviors in retrospect. It is an ongoing self-criticism, and a never-ending project.

The redefinition of humanitarian ethos also faces dispute. Professor Wu Fei of Peking University, an anthropologist and philosopher, voiced his opinion after Professor Parkin's keynote speech. As the redefinition originated from relativism, Professor Wu was concerned that relativism may diminish the holistic academic interest in deep theoretical approach, therefore affecting future research. In reply, Professor Parkin stated that by describing and analyzing local issues, the new ethos could as well help to build theoretical hypothesis. In this way, relativity plays the role of a starting point, rather than the universal one.

If I were an anthropologist

If I were an anthropologist, what would I do?

Having left the lecture hall, Fu



Anzhi began to rethink this question. In her midterm essay, she names the contemporary society as Semitopia. As an aspiring anthropologist, she intended to follow the path of Evans Pritchard, but then found that the people of Nuer community are living in cement

buildings and using modern cell-phones. She then intended to research differences in Israel, as she has realized the ethnographic value of ideological conflict. Her third destination is home, her own community, with a specific goal of medical anthropology on social

minorities.

Throughout the whole process, she would remain curious and responsible, as would keep in mind the core value of anthropology: bringing a humanizing voice to the local society, academic discussions, and global communication.

Ma Rong Frontiers and Ethnic Minorities in China

✎ Huang Fangyuan

China has been a multi-ethnic political polity for over two thousand years. Due to their strategic location and their presence in some of China's most resource-abundant lands, the border regions (Inner Mongolia, Tibet, and Xinjiang) have occupied the attention of the central government to a great degree for a long time. On May 17, 2016, Professor Ma Rong from Peking University's Institute of Sociology and Anthropology, offered his insight into frontier and ethnic minorities' issues in China. Professor Ma was a visiting scholar at the Fairbank Center of Harvard University from 1990-1991 and taught courses at UCLA and Duke University in 2000 and 2006, respectively. His main publications include *Ethnic Relations in China and Population and Society in Contemporary Tibet*.

Professor Ma first traced the nature of Chinese nationalism. Since the appearance of Confucianism (700 B.C.), the Chinese tradition of distinguishing 'civi-

lized' and 'barbarians' was mainly based on their cultural achievement. This distinction does not refer to any physical differences, languages, religion, or customs. It mainly emphasized the differences in social norms and behavior regulations. Whenever any barbarians, individuals or groups accepted and adopted the Chinese civilization as their own, they would become 'members' of the Chinese civilization, and then a part of the Chinese nation, which means that their culture (and way of life) is fundamental to China's nationalism. John King Fairbank wrote in *The US and China*:

To any Confucian ruler, Chinese or alien, the important thing was the loyalty of his administrators and their right conduct according to the Confucian code. Color and speech were of little account as long as a man understood the classics and could act accordingly.

In the second part of his lecture, Professor Ma introduced the impact of the 1911 Revolution on the frontiers of China. When Chin

a's last dynasty faced prevailing foreign military invasions and the risk of possible collapse of the country, Chinese leaders and social elites felt it was necessary to reform China and started to learn and adopt the concepts of the 'nation-state' strategies from the West for survival. By advocating regrouping of political entities based on 'national identity', the essence of 'nationalism' was to establish nation-states through 'national self-determination'. In 1911, the Qing dynasty was overthrown and eventually replaced by a republican form of government under the Nationalist Party (KMT) of Chiang Kai-shek. Its policy was thoroughly assimilationist and included plans to teach all minorities to speak Chinese, the incorporation of minorities' areas into the regular administrative system of the country, and the denial of all forms of autonomy. The Republic of China (1928-1949) stated that "there is only one Chinese nation, other groups are branches of this nation." These policies were never fully implemented,

in part because the KMT government did not have complete control of the country and was particularly weak in its outlying areas, and in part because of the intense hostility these policies aroused among the minorities.

In the 1950s, after the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) won the civil war, it had little experience in administration and social management. Moreover, under the international circumstances at that time, namely, the Korean War and forced isolation enforced by Western nations, the Chinese leaders had no other choice but to seek support from the USSR. The newly established central government of the PRC emulated some of the Soviet models in administration, education, economy, health care, armed forces, and jurisdiction. The PRC then established a centralized political-administrative system, state-owned planning economy, and 'revolutionary' educational and cultural systems.

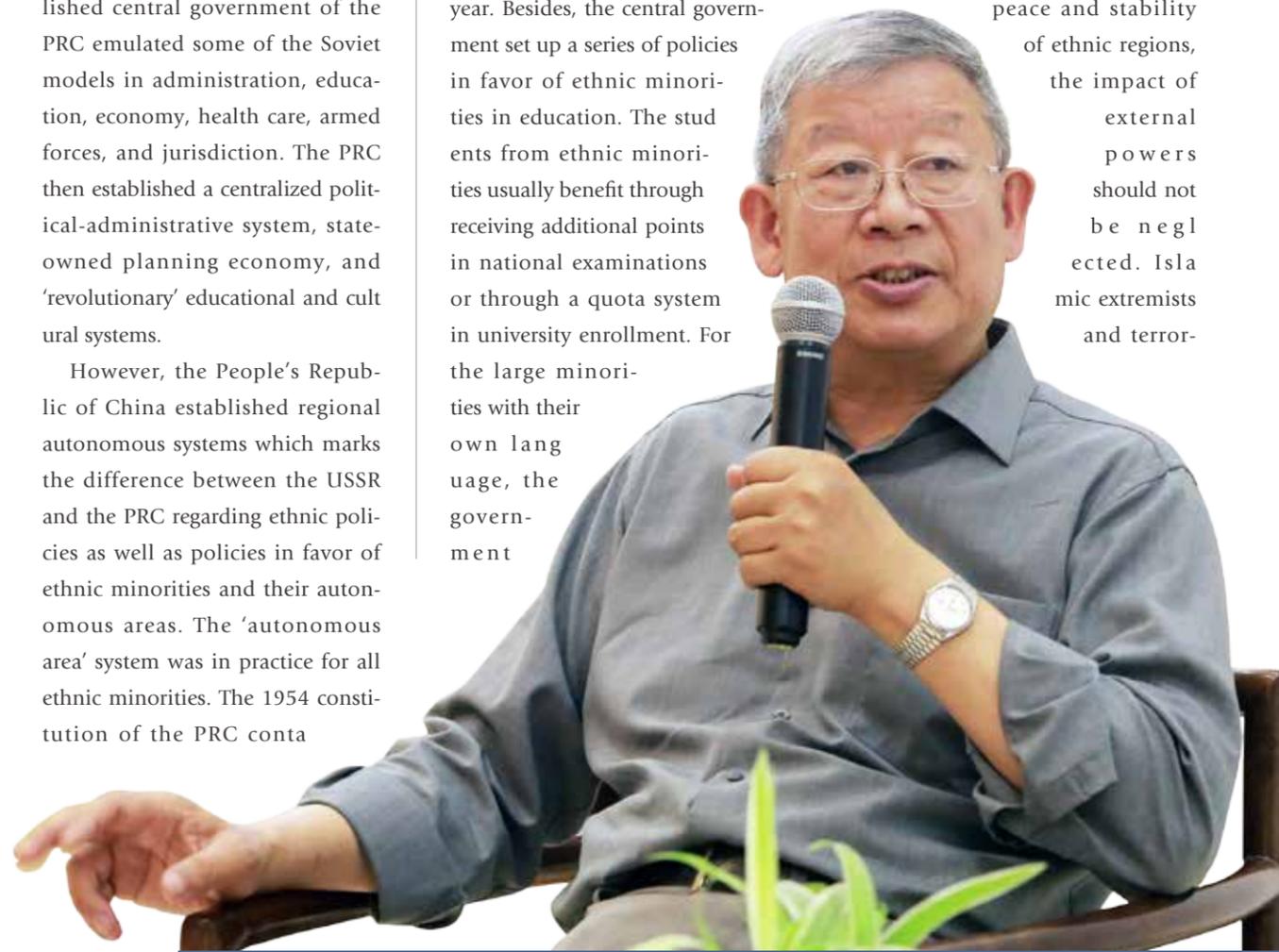
However, the People's Republic of China established regional autonomous systems which marks the difference between the USSR and the PRC regarding ethnic policies as well as policies in favor of ethnic minorities and their autonomous areas. The 'autonomous area' system was in practice for all ethnic minorities. The 1954 constitution of the PRC contains

the clause stating "the People's Republic of China is a united multi-nationalities country, and regional autonomy should be practiced in the areas where minority population is concentrated". The system was established to ensure that minority groups play a leading role in politics and manage their own affairs in autonomous states. The government also designed and practiced a series of policies in favor of ethnic minorities in aspects of administrative, educational, economic, and cultural development. First, the central government provides large amounts of financial aid to these autonomous areas each year. Besides, the central government set up a series of policies in favor of ethnic minorities in education. The students from ethnic minorities usually benefit through receiving additional points in national examinations or through a quota system in university enrollment. For the large minorities with their own language, the government

established an educational system from primary school to university using their language as the teaching language. The students in these 'ethnic schools' also learned Mandarin Chinese.

Finally, Professor Ma discussed ethnic and frontier issues related to today's China. China has witnessed two-directional migration flows, with Han cadres and intellectuals moving to coast areas for better opportunities and Han businessmen and rural labor simultaneously moving to the west. As a result, the degree of rural-urban gap and ethnic stratification increased. In addition,

when assessing the peace and stability of ethnic regions, the impact of external powers should not be neglected. Islamic extremists and terror-



ist organizations have an influence among some Uyghur people in Xinjiang. The 'opening-door' policy to outside world allowed thousands of Chinese Muslims to visit Saudi Arabia on pilgrimage. Some of them have accepted Islamic extremism and seek to establish an Islamic regime in Xinjiang following the model

of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The Tibetans in exile in India also became active under the leadership of the Dalai Lama. Additionally, some groups in the West support the principle of 'democracy', 'self-determination', and 'freedom of religion' by providing various kinds of financial, diplomatic, political supports

to separatist movements and organizations. Professor Ma pointed out, the new phrase of the PRC government's policy is to maintain its national unity against 'terrorism, religious extremism, and separatism' without significant changes or adjustment in basic institutions and policies related to ethnic affairs.

Justin Yifu Lin Demystifying the Chinese Economic Miracle

by Huang Fangyuan

The economic rise of China since 1979 is one of the most important economic events in human history. Before 1979, the Chinese economy featured inwardness where trade export and import constituted only 9.5% of total GDP. However, during the dramatic economic transformation since then, China has risen from one of the poorest countries in the world to become the world's second largest economy with the average annual GDP growth rate at 9.8%. Not only has China made great contributions to the post-2008 economic crisis recovery, but also to the improvement of humans well-being. Up till now, China has lifted more than 600 million people out of poverty.

Professor Justin Yifu Lin gave us an insider's account of the miracle of Chinese economic growth during 36 years of reform and opening up. Lin is current Professor and Honorary Dean of the National School of Development and Director of the

Center for New Structural Economics at Peking University. He also served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at the World Bank from 2008 to 2012.

China's Poor Economic Performance Prior to Reform and Opening Up

In the wake of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Mao Zedong and other political leaders hoped to develop China into a respectable modern nation with a strong military power, adopting a big push to build advanced capital-intensive industries. This strategy enabled China to test nuclear bombs in the 1960's and launch satellites in the 1970's. However, thousands of years of agricultural tradition rendered very minimal capital accumulation and made it impossible for China to afford capital intensive industries.

Professor Lin stated, "From 1949 to 1978, China voluntarily gave up

the latecomer advantages. The benefit of backwardness was not exploited until the transition from a command economy began in earnest." During this period of time, companies and firms in China had to live on government subsidies, protection, and administrative directives. Despite these measures, the overall economic performance was poor. Modern industries were established at the cost of resource misallocation.

Latecomer Advantages: The Reason Behind China's Rapid Economic Development After 1979

"Economic development means development of income level," Professor Lin said at the very beginning, "If you want to increase income continually, you need to improve the level of labor productivity and technological innovation as well as industrial upgrading are the two driving mechanisms behind productivity." Meanwhile,

“If you want to increase income continually, you need to improve the level of labor productivity and technological innovation as well as industrial upgrading are the two driving mechanisms behind productivity.”

the advantage of being a latecomer can be estimated by per capita GDP, an index reflects a country's average labor productivity and its overall technological and industrial achievement, which means that the per capita GDP gap between China and developed countries essentially reflects the gap between them in terms of overall technological and industrial achievement.

Professor Lin pointed out that China's rapid economic development after the 'reform and opening up' is largely due to latecomer advantages. The Industrial Revolution marked the coming of modern economic growth with controlled experiments conducted by scientists and engineers in laboratories rather than experience-based technological innovation. Consequently, economies in countries such as Britain, the US, and Germany took off at an unprecedented speed. Developing countries can take full advantage of their latecomer status, in which technological innovation and industrial upgrading can be achieved by imitation, import, and integration of existing technologies and industries, all of which implies much lower research and development costs (R&D costs). For example, it is profitable for a 'catch-up' country like China to absorb technology and

that developing countries can harness their latecomer's advantage to achieve rapid technological and industrial upgrading.

The Lost Decades: Developing Countries' Stagnation in Spite of Reform

"Other socialist countries and many other developing countries also implemented reform and opening up policies, but to distinctly disappointing outcomes", Professor Lin continued, "For instance, in the 1980s and 1990s, annual growth rate in developing countries was lower than that pre-reform era while the frequency of crisis were much higher." In contrast to China's extraordinary economic growth, the economic performances of other developing countries during the same period were so poor that it was known as the 'lost decades' for the developing world.

What is the main reason behind this? Transition strategy matters. The disappointing economic performance of other developing countries demonstrated that the Washington Consensus formula of rapid privatization and trade liberalization was not a cure-all in transitional period. Granting unconditional freedom

adopt mature industries that already exists, for it ensures fast development at a much lower cost. Professor Lin added

without government intervention is doomed to fail, as is in the case of the Soviet Union's drastic shift from national planned economy to liberal economy. What works in theory does not always work in practice, because a successful transition strategy requires both pragmatic caution and a step-by-step, gradual approach. Otherwise, haste makes waste.

Thanks to Deng Xiaoping's dual-track approach rather than the strongly market-based approach advocated by the Washington Consensus, China's robust economic growth was an exception against the waves of economic stagnation during the 1980s. Its success, justifies controls and liberalization side by side. With government protection and subsidies to firms in priority sectors on the one hand, and the liberalization of the entry of private enterprises and foreign investment into labor-intensive sectors on the other, Deng's development strategy tapped into the country's comparative advantage.

China's success, however, has not come without cost. Professor Lin was not blind to the emerging problems coming with the reform. Issues such as income disparities, corruption, and instability are the legacy of the dual track transition. According to Lin, "Income disparities have widened, owing in part to the continuation of distortionary policies in various sectors, including the domination of China's four large state-owned banks, the near-zero royalty on mining, and monopolies in major industries, including telecommunications, power, and financial services."

A Path to Future: China's Economic Growth Will Be Sustained

Given the fact that China has already experienced more than 30 years of rapid growth since the Reform and Opening Up, people's opinions diverge as to whether it is possible for this type of growth to continue for another twenty or thirty years, or even longer. There is a growing bearishness among investors about the outlook for the Chinese economy, some even goes so far as to argue that China's economy will crash. "Well, my answer to that question is very simple," Lin said with a smile, "It depends on how large is the advantage of backwardness or your technological level with the highest income countries."

Notwithstanding the headwinds blowing from the euro-zone crisis and the slump in demand worldwide, Lin believed China could continue its dynamic growth. And enough implications have convinced us that the likelihood of a sustainable economic growth of China is very high. According to new data, China's economy grew by 6.7 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2016, suggesting economic resilience.

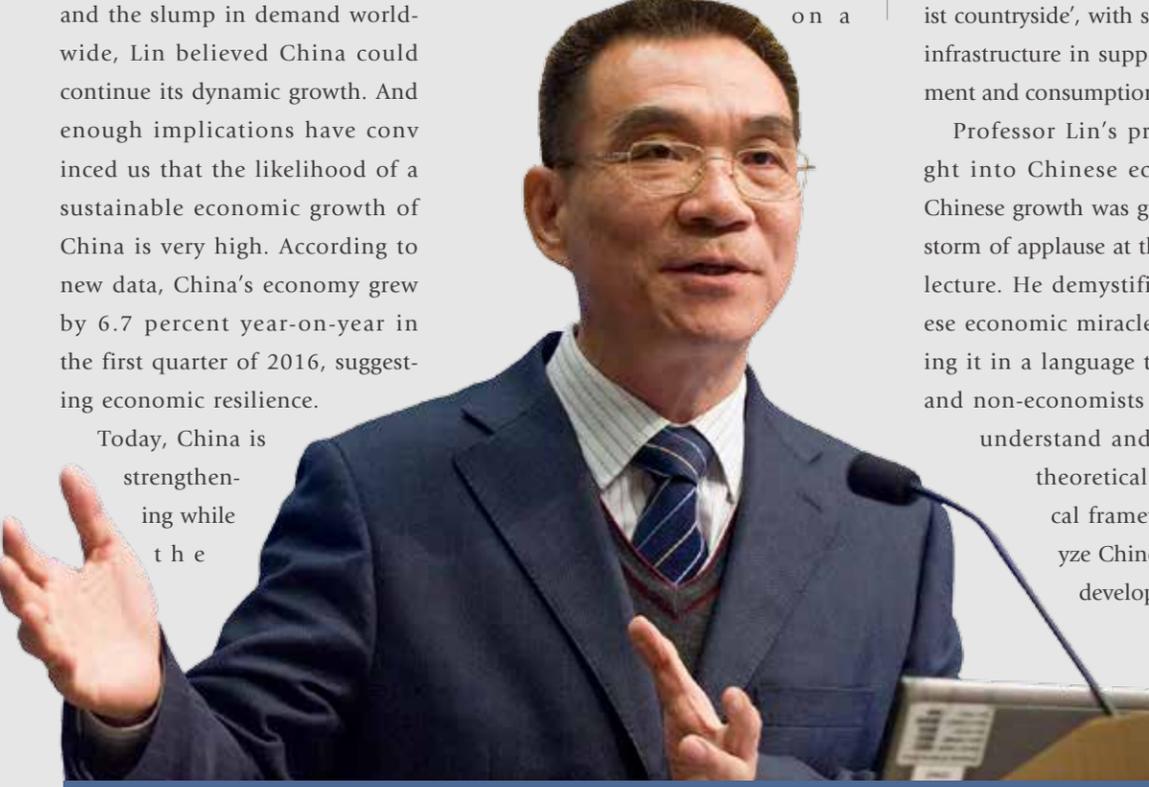
Today, China is strengthening while the

global environment is deteriorating. The fundamentals for the US economic recovery are still not solid, and Japan and the EU have resorted to negative interest rates. Also, the economic conditions in Russia and Brazil—two of the five major emerging BRICS countries, which also include India, China, and South Africa, have worsened. Recently, the IMF cut the 2016 global economic growth outlook to 3.2 percent. Yet it upgraded China's growth forecast by 0.2 percentage points to 6.5 percent concurrently, thanks to the progress of the economy in the first quarter. Looking back at the market sentiments over the last several months, it is obvious that the pessimism over China's economic prospects had been exaggerated. It once again demonstrates that it is essential to look at the overall picture rather than just focus on a

single aspect of China's vast economy.

He also added that further improvement of the market mechanism would guarantee a more stable and healthy economy. Legacy left by the dual track economic transition in the financial structure, namely distortions in resource prices, administrative distortions, the monopoly role of state-owned companies in a number of critical sectors, needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Otherwise, inequality represented by the further widening of the urban-rural income gap would be explosive. Finally, Professor Lin suggested ways that these distortions might be overcome. One policy he emphasized was development of small and medium banks to support small and medium enterprises. Another is 'building a new socialist countryside', with stress on rural infrastructure in support of investment and consumption.

Professor Lin's profound insight into Chinese economy and Chinese growth was greeted with a storm of applause at the end of the lecture. He demystified the Chinese economic miracle by explaining it in a language that students and non-economists could easily understand and proposed a theoretical and historical framework to analyze Chinese economic development.



Patrick Geary The Construction of European Identities and Contemporary Challenges in Europe

► Huang Fangyuan

In his lecture, Patrick Geary, Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, offered his insight into the issue of European identity, which are currently at the forefront of European concerns, in light of the fiscal crisis, the refugee crisis, and resurgent nationalist movements in Western Europe. Significant new developments in early medieval scholarship have also been particularly fruitful in examining the fundamental issue of European identity in the post-Roman Empire world.

I. New Methods and Approaches

First of all, Professor Geary pointed out that the most significant new directions in the study of early medieval Europe (ca. 400-900) was paying particular attention to new methods and approaches.

Specifically, there

has been a renewed appreciation for the study of original manuscripts as authentic witnesses to the past, both as texts and as physical objects, in spite of the poor preservation of documentary evidence. What had been previously dismissed as faulty manuscripts, poor abridgments or 'scissors and paste pastiches' of texts are now being studied as crucial witnesses to how malleable transmitted texts were through

the early Middle Ages. The manuscript has also been transformed by major digital projects that has provided direct access to high-quality images of hundreds of early medieval manuscripts.

Apart from a reevaluation of original manuscripts, the medieval research has undergone an increasing integration of archaeology and other material and scientific approaches to the past. This has in part been driven by necessity. In addition, material remains illuminate aspects of a society about which written documentation is almost always silent. If one hopes to study such basic issues as population mobility,



technology, agriculture, urban planning, etc., one must turn to the archaeological records.

Using these new methods and

understanding of identities as objectively existing, permanent facts of social and ethnic distinctiveness to a more constructivist understand-

ing of identity, particularly of ethnic identity, in this period. At the same time, scholars are divided between those who view these constructs as essentially as hoc

“ Anyone who follows contemporary events in Europe should be well aware that Europe is in the midst of a sustained identity crisis. ”

and ephemeral, purely situational and strategic on the one hand, and those who argue that some of these groups maintain a tradition of ethnic differentiation across generations, a tradition never entirely lost even when incorporated into other polities, and capable of being reactivated under changing conditions. Still, other scholars are skeptical of the extent to which ethnic identities were a primary source of group identification in late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages at all. But in reality, just as there were many regional ways of being Roman, and later of being Christian. Some of the most significant scholarship in the past decades has been devoted to understanding regional religious identities and affiliations, affiliations that are comprehensible only when one avoids such broad dichotomies as Orthodox and Arian, and examines local Christian communities.

II. The Shifting Understanding on European Identity

Anyone who follows contemporary events in Europe should be well aware that Europe is in the midst of a sustained identity crisis. So was Europe in the past. Looking back on history, Professor Geary analyzed in close details about twists and turns among the construction of European identities.

There has been an almost universal shift from a primordialist

approaches, a generation of early medieval historians have been debating the extent to which, across the Middle Ages, a new, European identity can be seen to have emerged. For perhaps the first time since before the First World War, to explore the history of Europe as a whole, rather than the particular histories of its various peoples and its nation states. As a consequence, scholars are framing their investigations of the early medieval West in terms of a much wider perspective.

III. How to Construct a New European Identity?

Thinking Europe is a historical investigation, as well as an attempt to understand the present, and by doing so, attempts to plot the future. Europe, as a region, has a long history, from the Homeric Hymns to Apollo, when Europe, the place, was understood to be only a small part of Central Greece, to its gradual expansion as on the three poorly delimited but essential parts of the known world, to its later inclusion of regions such as Scandinavia, the British Isles, and the Slavic world. It also has a long ideological history tied, as we know to the concept of Western political power and Christianity, particularly from the end of the eighth century.

If the identity of Europe as it developed from the early middle ages to the present is fragile, the history of Europeans is even more so. From the perspective of a medieval historian, Professor Geary can see only two possible ways by which a European identity might be constructed. The first, and in many ways the easiest to foster is dangerous and indeed terrifying. This is to build the European identity in opposition to a perceived other, for example, Islam. The second path toward creating a European identity is more positive, but much more difficult. This is the gradual creation of the European identity, not forged in opposition to some other or grounded in an imagined past, but based on shared values of law and justice and a common future. However, such a shared identity is extraordinarily fragile.

A Silk Road Map of the Middle Ages

Li Kechun

Among the ancient Chinese documents which existed for thousands of years, maps are seldom found. The focus on the collection of books rather than maps is started by first-generation scholars of diplomacy in Han Dynasty. But in 2002, a 16th century map, which remained unknown even to academia for many years, was discovered in Japan by accident. It soon became world famous. Lin Meicun, Professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology, did a thorough research on it for eight years. The academic value of this map was finally unveiled in his book published in 2012, which has just won a national prize.

The map is named Mongolian Landscape Map, from the label on the back which was catalogued by Shangyou Tang, a Qing era bookstore. The original name on the map has been cut off for the need

of mounting, which contributed to the difficulty of finding its origins. Its owner used to believe that it was made in Qing. Not until it was brought back to China was it discovered that it belonged to the Ming dynasty. From textual evidence and historic point of view, Professor Lin further restricted the date to the period from the 3rd year to the 18th year of Jailing reign, i.e. from 1524 to 1539. It is originally made for the reference of the emperor.

The map is painted in traditional hand scroll in ink and color on silk, 0.59 meters wide, and 30.12 meters long. It covers the Silk Road regions in the Mongolia Empire, containing the names of 211 locations in Chinese script. Professor Lin studied them one by one and found that most of them are transliterations from foreign languages including Tocharian, Greek, Turkic, Mongolian and Persian. Through comparison of the names and marks of these locations with other books and maps, Lin was able to draw a whole picture of communication between China and Western world during the Ming dynasty.

Professor Lin also narrated the story of its legendary finding. This map was brought to Japan around 1920s by Fuji Yurinkan. Professor Lin inferred that he probably bought it from Liulichang, a famous

antique market. It had been kept in the private museum of Fuji Yurinkan since then and seldom displayed. In 2002, an international auction company of Beijing went to the museum to buy a famous painting of the Northern Song period. After the purchase, the representative of the auction company thought that he can afford more, so he asked if the museum had other items for sale. Then the museum then said that they had a Qing dynasty landscape painting. The representative had an intuition that it was of great value and bought this wonderful map as a byproduct.

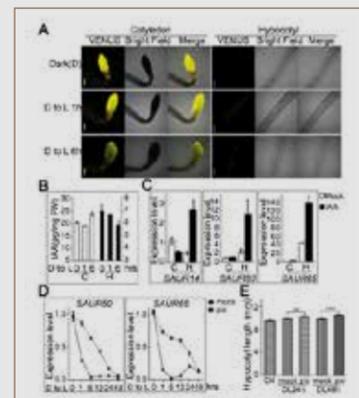
Its value is not emphasized by the public until Professor Lin's research. In a 2012 auction, the reserve price rose to 80 million RMB. But this is not the kind of value that Professor Lin is concerned about. He appreciated its artistic value and its significance in the study of silk roads. For a long time, Matteo Ricci, the Italian missionary, was believed to be the source of Chinese people's knowledge of world geography. But this Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) world map proves that the Chinese's exploration of world geography had started long before his arrival in 1583. With the new "Belt and Road" initiative, the related study of the ancient Silk Road will garner more attention, and Professor Lin's work has just provided us with a good reference.



New Findings on the Determinants of Plant's Development of Various Organs Discovered

Zhao Zhujun

On April 26, 2016, a research report written by Peking University scholars titled "Arabidopsis SAURs are Critical for Differential Light Regulation of the Develop-



ment of Various Organs" was published in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences). PNAS is one of the four most well-known scientific journals of the world. The research report detailed the findings made by Professor Deng Xingwang and his team. The report was co-authored by Sun Ning and Wang Jiajun, Ph.D. candidates at the Peking University's Faculty of Life Sciences.

Highlighting the analysis of the report, plants are sessile organisms that adapt to environmental stim-

uli to optimize their morphologies. Light as one of the most important environmental signals, affecting the entire life cycle of plants. It is noticed that the seedlings of the plant Arabidopsis illustrate different morphologies when grown in the dark as compared with when it is grown under the light. Various plant organs respond differently to environmental signals so that plants can adapt to the dynamic range of environments without any movement. In the case of Arabidopsis seedlings, light promotes the expansion of cotyledons

but inhibits the elongation of hypocotyls.

Such mechanism behind the contrasting cell enlargement is unclear. By first

ly identifying



and then studying the Small Auxin Up RNA (SAUR) genes,

Professor

Deng's

team

found

that, both

overexpression

and mutation anal-

yses of the SAURs genes

demonstrated that these SAURs can promote cotyledon expansion and opening as well as enhancing hypocotyl elongation. Furthermore, phytochrome-interacting factors (PIFs) are shown to be regulating the expression of these SAUR genes in cotyledons and hypocotyls. Overall, the development of these two plant organs: cotyledons and hypocotyls, are dependent on light to mediate auxin levels and PIF stability in order to regulate the SAUR genes which in turn mediates the different growth processes.

PKU Team Discovers Nuclear Quantum Effects of Hydrogen Bond

✎ Han Jingtao

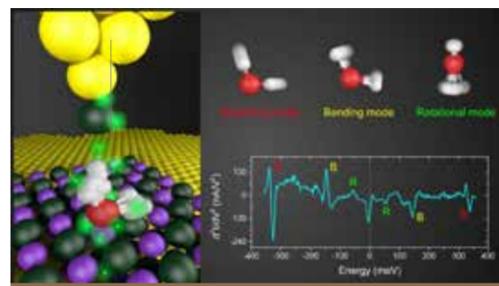
Hydrogen bonds are a combination of electrostatics with a nuclear quantum contribution arising from the light mass of hydrogen nuclei. However, the quantum states of hydrogen nuclei are extremely sensitive to coupling with local environments, and these effects are broadened and averaged with conventional spectroscopic or diffraction techniques. The study showed that quantum effects change the strength of individual hydrogen bonds in water layers adsorbed on a salt surface. These effects are revealed in inelastic tunneling spectra obtained with a chlorine-terminated scanning tunneling microscope tip.

In the study, the team reported the quantitative assessment of nuclear quantum effects on the strength of a single hydrogen bond formed at a water-salt interface, using tip-enhanced inelastic electron tunneling

spectroscopy based on a scanning tunneling microscope.

The inelastic scattering cross section was resonantly enhanced by “gating” the frontier orbitals of water via a chlorine-terminated tip, so the hydrogen-bonding strength can be determined with high accuracy from the red shift in the oxygen-hydrogen stretching frequency of water. Isotopic substitution experiments combined with quantum simulations revealed that the anharmonic quantum fluctuations of hydrogen nuclei weaken the weak hydrogen bonds and strengthen the relatively strong ones. However, this trend can be completely reversed when a hydrogen bond is strongly coupled to the polar atomic sites of the surface.

The research was conducted by



Guo Jing, Chen Ji, Peng Jinbo, Lin Zeren, Meng Xiangzhi, and Wang Zhichang of the International Center for Quantum Materials, School of Physics, Peking University; Lu Jingtao from the School of Physics and Wuhan National High Magnetic Field Center, Huazhong University of Science and Technology; Feng Yexin from the School of Physics and Electronics, Hunan University; Li Xinzhen, from the School of Physics, Peking University; and Wang En'ge and Jiang Ying from the Collaborative Innovation Center of Quantum Matter.

Min Hu's Group Reveals the Influence of Black Carbon on Climate Change

✎ Ouyang Dafang

Having been part of the research on the absorption and direct radiative forcing of black carbon, the team led by Professor Hu Min from

the College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Peking University and Professor Zhang Renyi from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University recently

developed a novel quasi-atmospheric aerosol evolution study chamber that gives the science a good chance to understand the black carbon better, the aging and

variations in the morphology and optical properties included. The results of the experiments were published in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences) on April 19, 2016.

The results of published study titled “Markedly enhanced absorption and direct radiative forcing of black carbon under polluted urban environments” provide the field with ways to assess the impacts of black carbon on air quality and climate. So it is especially timely that the study on black carbon and the invention of the chamber were released just as the modern lives suffer from the severe haze development. With the novel chamber, the science may thus answer to the public's demands, finding ways to halt the aggravating climate change. “Using a novel environmental chamber method, we have, for the first time to our knowledge, quantified the aging and variation in the optical properties of BC particles under ambient urban conditions representative of developed and developing countries.” said the research team.

The research team conducted experiments that compared the aging and variation in the optical properties of black carbon particles in Beijing, China during August to October in 2013, and Houston, United States during May to June in 2009, representing developing countries and developed countries. Through the chamber that overcomes deficiencies in current atmospheric measurements, the team is able to observe the morphology variation, absorption enhancement and thus conclude the

atmospheric implications more precisely. The QUALITY chamber is divided into two parts, that is, the lower flow chamber where ambient air is pulled through continuously and an upper reaction chamber where aging experiments are conducted. While the black carbon particles (produced from incomplete combustion) are introduced into the reaction chamber and exposed to the sunlight, while another aerosol instruments recording statistics that show the comprehensive set of black carbon properties through the aging process, mass, chemical composition and optical coefficients for example. The design is meant to mimic the ambient gaseous concentrations without the presence of ambient aerosols and in the same time introduce seed black carbon particles. According to the result, there are two main stages of the black carbon aging, including firstly initial transformation from a fractal to spherical morphology with little absorption variation and secondly the subsequent growth of fully compact particles with a large absorption

enhancement. It also shows that the aging of black carbon particles under polluted urban environments does have a serious influence on air quality such as visibility, weather and climate. As black carbon causes damages to almost every corner of the world, it is the developing countries that suffer the most. “The rapid

aging and largely enhanced absorption of BC particles could contribute importantly to atmospheric stabilization and diminished diurnal PBL variation, exacerbating formation of severe haze events.” So a surveillance in the emission of black carbon can efficiently help to control air pollution and protect the climate, especially for the developing countries who should try their best to tackle the issues.

The research was supported by both the National Natural Science Foundation of China and Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China. It is also highly acclaimed as “Convergence on climate warming by black carbon aerosols” from the famous scholar, Veerbhadran Ramanathan, who has been contributing tremendously to the area of atmospheric aerosol research. Although there is still a long way to go for the humans to try and counter this severe climate change, yet with the devotion of these outstanding research teams, a more sustainable world appears to be on the horizon.



“Friends of PKU Hong Kong” 20th Anniversary Celebration Held at PKU

✎ *Mina Sohn*

In April 2016, Friends of PKU's 20th Anniversary was celebrated at Peking University (PKU). Founding members of Friend of PKU (HK) Co. Ltd. including Chen Guoju and his wife Chen Wuyuhua; Chen Shangzhi; Zhao Wen Xueyun; Professor Zhong Huanan; and Wu Jiawei, along with other founding members, and more than 100 alumni who had received the Mingde Scholarship, gathered together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the PKU Mingde Scholarship. Many teachers and students from PKU

were also present during the celebration. At the same time, they also celebrated 20 years of partnership between Friends of PKU and PKU.

Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the PKU Council, met with Chen Guoju and his wife before the event. Lin Jianhua, President of PKU; Min Weifang, Former Chairman of the PKU Council; Xu Zhihong, Former President of PKU, and other members of the school leadership, attended the Friends of PKU opening ceremony and other activities.

On the afternoon of April 16th, 2016, the opening ceremony of the

“Friends of PKU” was held. At that night, “The Night of Mingde” was also held to celebrate the Mingde Scholarship's 20th anniversary. The events were held at PKU's Lakeviews Hotel.

From the 15th of April to the 17th, members of the “Friends of PKU” attended the Mingde Scholarship Alumni Meeting, and the Mingde Study-Tour Seminar. The members also visited the School of International Studies and College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering. They also awarded the “Bo Hua Scholarship” to 15 students from the School of International Studies.

which marked the commencement of communication and corporation between HHC Tea and PKU.

At the ceremony, Chairman Zhong introduced the HHC Youth Program to the public for the first

time, which aims at promoting traditional Chinese tea culture to young people from 18 to 30 years old, helping them experience tea culture and to be interested in it. Besides, Mr. Zhong was also appo

inted the tutor of the Talents Base of Innovative Entrepreneurship in Public Management of PKU. More cooperative programs between HHC Tea and PKU in the years ahead are in the planning stage.

Signing Ceremony for the Peking University Chugai Medical Foundation

✎ *Lu Yifan*

On April 12, 2016, the Peking University Chugai Medical Foundation signing ceremony was held by the Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC) and Chugai Pharmaceutical Company.

The Chugai Medical Foundation was established in 2013 by Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. in PUHSC. The Foundation maintained a three-year goal to support medical education and enhance

cooperation with PUHSC. After the first successful three-year period, the foundation is renewed for a new three-year goal with the same purpose.

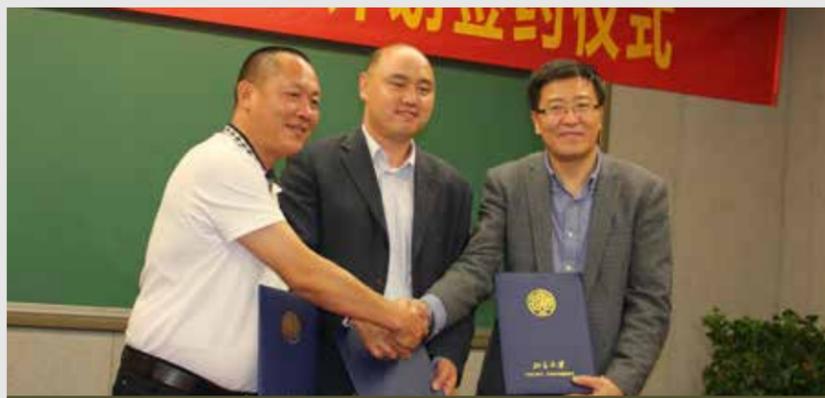
Deputy Chairman of Chugai Pharmaceutical Company, Mr. Motoo, indicated that given the experience gained over the past few years of the foundation, the company would continue its support of the education on students and young teachers. Also, Chugai

hopes to promote the cultivation of people with talents and ability in medical field through the cooperation with PUHSC.

Professor Huang Xiaojun, Director of Peking University Institute of Hematology, spoke highly of the contribution of the foundation towards the cultivation of medical talents and the relationship between China and Japan. He also seeks for better cooperation with the company in the future.

He Hechang Scholarship Establishment Ceremony Held

✎ *Li Ruoxue*



On May 9, 2016, the signing ceremony of the He Hechang (HHC) scholarship was held at the Peking University School of Government. Yan Jirong, Executive Deputy Dean of the School of Government and Zhong Guanglin, Chairman of the HHC Tea Enterprise, signed the cooperative agreement for the establishment of the HHC Scholarship,

How to Give

Peking University
Education Foundation

Tel: (+86) 10-6276-7821
Fax: (+86) 10-6275-5998
Email: pkuef@pku.edu.cn
Website: www.pkuef.org



Jing Yuan Courtyards

Six courtyards stand gracefully around the quiet and elegant Jing Yuan Meadow, giving visitors a sense of deep tranquility. During the Yenching University era, these courtyards were used as the girl's dormitory buildings. Boys were strictly forbidden from entering the girl's dormitory, and because of this, the courtyards were nicknamed the "Forbidden Palace" by the boys.

In 1926, when Yenching University campus was completed, there were just four courtyards: The first was called Yezhai, the second Jingzhai, the fourth Qunzhai, and the fifth Lezhai. The third and the sixth courtyards were built when Peking University moved to the current site in 1952.

All the courtyards are comprised of two-story traditional brick and wood buildings with a gray roofs and red gates. Each gate of the courtyard comes to life with purple wisteria pergola in the springtime.

