


A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
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China and Niger  
Restore Relations



Sun Fuming, women's 72-kg judo.

Le Jingyi, women's 100-m freestyle swimming.



Tang Lingsheng,  
men's 59-kg  
weightlifting.

## Chinese Gold Medalists

At the 26th Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta



Zhan Xugang, men's 70-kg weightlifting.



Li Xiaoshuang, men's all-round gymnastics.



Li Duihong, women's  
25-m sport pistol.

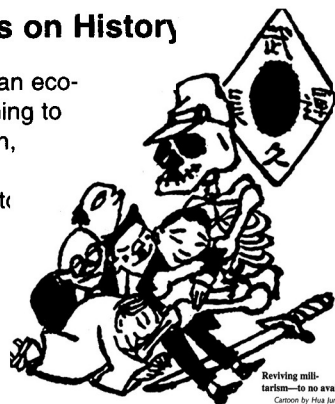
Yang Ling, men's 10m  
running target  
marksmanship.





## Japan's Reactionary Views on History

In recent years, with Japan rising as an economic power, quite a few people, aiming to whitewash Japan's past of aggression, wantonly spread lies to obscure the nature of that war of aggression and to cover war crimes. As a result, all kinds of absurd views such as "meritorious aggression," "justified revision" and "detrimental apology" keep popping up in Japan.



Reviving militarism—to no avail.  
Cartoon by Hua Junwu.

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Wang Junxia, a gold and silver medalist in the women's 5,000-m and 10,000-m races at the 26th Olympic Games.

Photo by Wang Yao



## Demonstration of Strength

The Chinese athletic delegation won a total of 50 medals in 14 events during the Atlanta games, ranking fourth in medals earned behind the United States, Russia and Germany, and matching China's record of 16 golds and 22 silvers in Barcelona four years ago. In addition, 63 athletes came fourth to eighth in events. These success indicate the steady development of China's sports.

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## Debate Over Modern or Traditional

When the Beijing Western Railway Station with a distinctive traditional flavor was completed at the end of 1995, the mass media hailed it as the last grand project of the century. However, the station's "traditional flavor" has attracted criticism from various experts.

Some even say it "reminds people of ancient post stations."



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## New Chapter in China-Niger Ties

**T**he restoration of diplomatic relations between China and Niger has ushered in a new chapter in relations between the two countries.

This view was shared by Chinese Premier Li Peng and General Ali Saibou, former president of Niger and now chairman of the Council of Sages, when they met in the Chinese coastal resort of Beidaihe on August 19.

Li said that General Saibou and Andre Salifou, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, have been devoted to Sino-Niger friendship, and their current visit to China has accomplished the historic mission of resuming diplomatic ties.

As developing countries, China and Niger have similar historical problems, and are now facing the difficulties of developing economies and building their respective countries, Li said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, extending a welcome to the Niger delegation, said that the

Chinese government attaches great importance to the delegation's visit, which, he noted, not only signified the resumption of Sino-Niger diplomatic ties, but laid a sound, solid basis for the expansion of bilateral friendly cooperation in various fields.

Over recent years, Qian noted, the Taiwan authorities, taking advantage of the temporary economic difficulties faced by some African countries, have gone all out to practice its "elastic and pragmatic" diplomacy in the name of economic aid, while undermining traditional friendly and cooperative Sino-African relations.

These actions are opposed by the overwhelming majority of the African countries, Qian said, adding that China is confident of Sino-African ties and the determination of the African people to further nurture this relationship.

"There is only one China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of it, and the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China," Qian reiterated.

On the same day at Beidaihe, Qian and Salifou, on behalf of their own governments, signed a joint

communique on the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On August 20, Chinese President Jiang Zemin met with Saibou in Beijing and affirmed that China and Niger would commence sincerely developing their new bilateral ties.

During their talks, Jiang congratulated his Niger counterpart President Mainassara on winning the election.

The Chinese government applauds efforts by President Mainassara to realize domestic political stability, national reconciliation and economic growth, and encourages Niger to probe its own political system and development process in line with its specific conditions, Jiang said.

China sincerely hopes the country can continue its success in developing its economy and safeguarding national unity, Jiang added.

During his talks with Chinese top leaders, Saibu noted that Niger treasures and will continue developing the ties between the two countries which were established by the late Niger President General Seyni Kountche. ■

## Rules Outline Cross-Straits Shipping

**C**hina recently issued regulations to manage direct shipping between the mainland and Taiwan, a feat which has been impossible for nearly 50 years.

Xiamen and Fuzhou, two ports in east China's Fujian Province, have been chosen as pilot ports for direct shipping from the mainland across the Taiwan Straits.

The unprecedented move by the Ministry of Communications, which oversees China's land and marine transportation, is aimed at "promoting cargo and passenger transport, maintaining navigation order and accelerating trade between the mainland and Taiwan," Minister of

Communications Huang Zhendong told a press conference in Beijing on August 20.

Huang said the regulations were drafted to meet the growing demand for direct sea links between the two sides, as cross-Straits trade has been expanding in recent years, despite the fact that only indirect shipping is available so far, through Hong Kong or a third place.

The regulations make clear that the Ministry of Communications has the sole authority to manage cross-Straits shipping, which is termed "domestic transport under special administration."

Shipping companies from both the mainland and Taiwan, as well as shippers jointly invested by both sides of the Straits, must get approval from the ministry before engaging in

cross-Straits shipping.

Shippers registered in Taiwan must authorize their mainland agents to apply for approval of across-Straits transports from the Ministry of Communications after prior examination by the local transport department where their agents are located.

No foreign shipping companies are allowed to handle direct or entrepot cargo or passenger transport across the Taiwan Straits, except with the prior approval of the ministry, the regulations say.

The regulations also require mainland ports and shipping agents that provide services for direct cross-Straits shipping to be authorized and designated by the ministry. However, details were not available on the practice for Taiwan ports.

Direct shipping across the Taiwan



## Cadres Across China Target Training

**T**he Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has ordered all localities to implement its "1996-2000 National Cadre Education and Training Program."

Under this program the next five years will be a crucial period to enhance its reform and opening-up drive, initiate a socialist market economy, and to march towards the country's long-term goals for 2010.

To this end, the program is focused on improving the quality of cadres. They should be both moral and competent, and able to meet the demands of the reform, opening-up and modernization drives.

The training will target leading cadres above county level and large and medium-sized state enterprises, especially middle aged and younger cadres.

According to the program, the Party School of the CPC Central Committee will train 1,000 young cadres in the coming five years, while provincial Party schools will

train at least 100 cadres every year.

The program aims to raise the educational level of cadres. By the year 2000, all cadres aged under 45 must have qualifications from colleges or secondary schools, while at least 80 percent of cadres at prefectural level must have college qualification.

Cadres at county level and above should undergo training for at least three months, while 300 provincial leading officials will participate in regular training held by the Party school of the Party's central committee or similar training.

A total of 1,500 provincial leaders will be trained within five years. ■

## Book Reviews Foreign Affairs

**C**hina published its first official report on state foreign affairs activities in Beijing on August 21.

Compiled by the Department of Policy Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the annual report is a comprehensive account of the central government's diplomatic guidelines

and practices over the past year, and expounds its views on world affairs, according to an official with the ministry's Information Department.

Besides a general review of official foreign policy, the report also briefly introduces China's relations with individual countries, the United Nations and other world organizations.

The report will be published annually from now on.

The same day, a collection of theses on Deng Xiaoping's foreign affairs theory was also published.

Also included in the book are thirty-seven articles presented at a seminar on Deng's thoughts on foreign affairs held on December 12 last year. Speeches by President Jiang Zemin and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen were incorporated as well.

At the seminar, Jiang praised Deng for helping China adjust its foreign policy, finalize an international direction and strategize on foreign affairs work in the new era.

The two books are published by the World Press and are available in Xinhua book stores. ■

Straits is still banned by the Taiwan authorities.

In 1995, Taiwan proposed a partial opening of shipping ties, with the establishment of an offshore transshipment center near its southern port of Kaohsiung from which ships could sail between Taiwan and the mainland.

Huang stressed that the new initiative taken by the Ministry of Communications was applicable to both direct shipping and international transshipment of cargo across the Taiwan Straits and was, therefore, quite different from the Taiwan proposal.

The minister encouraged the two sides to strengthen cooperation in the shipping sector and improve safety facilities in the Taiwan Straits to make direct shipping more convenient.

nient.

He urged Taiwan to open ports for direct shipping and provide berths for mainland ships.

Issues on bilateral shipping between Hong Kong and Taiwan should be discussed and arranged as early as possible, before the resumption by China of the exercise of sovereignty of Hong Kong in mid-1997, Huang said.

*China News Services* reported that Taiwan shipping circles welcomed the mainland's action, considering the rules constructive for shipping and an aid to breaking the deadlock in the cross-Straits relationship.

Some economic and financial managers in Taiwan also consider the time ripe for direct sea links across the Taiwan Straits. They stressed that direct shipping is conducive to reduc-

ing shipping costs and raising profits for Taiwan businesses.

Following the move of the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MFTEC) issued on August 21 a set of regulations containing detailed requirements and application procedures for becoming an agent authorized to deal with direct trade across the Taiwan Straits.

Liu Xiangdong, assistant minister of MFTEC, said the move demonstrates the sincerity of the central government's promotion of direct trade and economic cooperation between the two sides of the Straits. He urged the Taiwan authorities to "take practical measures" and to stop blocking such links. ■

# Japan's Reactionary Views on History Must Be Challenged

by *People's Daily Commentator*

**I**t surprised no one that the annually-staged political farce was put on again this year.

On August 15, the anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II, several cabinet ministers and scores of Diet (parliament) members, one on another's heels, paid homage at the Yasukuni Shrine where seven class-A war criminals, including wartime prime minister Hideki Tojo, are enshrined.

The right-wing politicians' homage to the war criminals came shortly after Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's visit to the shrine on July 29.

In addition to the right-wing politicians, a handful of rightist civilians, clad in the uniform of the Imperial Japanese Army with sabers on their belt, also staged a show at the shrine, piping, drumming and waving flags of the Japanese Imperial Army, in an attempt to revive the dying embers of militarism.

The drama of the event reminds the world again that Japan's political orientation should be closely watched, and our guard can never be relaxed.

As is well-known, the Tokyo-based Yasukuni Shrine is a symbol of aggression and expansion abroad perpetuated by Japan, and whether or not to visit the shrine has become a touchstone for testing the attitudes of Japanese political figures toward that war of aggression launched by Japan.

August 15 marks the liberation of Asian nations from Japanese imperialism and the defeat and surrender of Japanese imperialists. But at the same time, it also serves as the anniversary of the spiritual liberation of the Japanese from militarist rule.

On that day, political figures of

Japan should, with a guilty conscience, mourn the deaths of tens of millions of victims in other Asian nations as well as in Japan, and should reflect with deep introspection the consequences of that period, drawing important lessons from it.

Only by doing so can they be responsible to history and for the future of Japan.

A handful of rightist politicians, however, pay homage to the Yasukuni Shrine every year and worship the war criminals there, openly defying the feelings of the people of other Asian nations.

To put it bluntly, the act of these politicians represents no less than a provocation against the Asian people and a challenge to the international community. Their behavior can also be interpreted as a complete exposure of their reactionary political ideology.

Half a century has passed since the end of World War II, and history has already passed judgement that it was the Japanese imperialists, together with the German and Italian Fascists, that launched the war. It was Japan which invaded, occupied and enslaved other Asian countries, and it was Japan that brought untold calamity to all Asian people, including the Japanese.

This is a historical fact borne by ironclad evidence, and no one can deny it.

Shallow rhetoric attempting to revise the nature of that war of aggression is evident nowhere else but in Japan. There speeches to whitewash a history of aggression run rampant, and farces justifying Japan's war of aggression can be staged in broad daylight.

This is something shocking, infuriating, and thought-provoking.

It is not accidental that such celebrations of aggression appear in

Japan. Actually, it is a conspicuous expression of Japan's right-wing political atmosphere and a natural result of the fact that Japan's reactionary historical perspectives have not been reckoned with.

After Japan surrendered in 1945, the United States, occupying Japan, tried its best to turn Japan into an anti-Communist "breakwater," or a "bridgehead," and propped up a right-wing regime in the country in support of its own Cold War policy.

Under such political circumstances, with the old state machinery remaining largely intact, the war crimes unsettled and militaristic leanings untouched, many war criminals who had not been punished entered the political arena and soared to important government posts.

Japan has not reckoned with, nor is it able to reckon with, its historical and war perspectives preaching aggression and expansion. As a result, numerous war criminals still remain at large, and many right-wing groups have not been sanctioned for openly trying to justify the war of aggression.

Instead, many progressive forces upholding the eradication of militarism in Japan have been threatened, persecuted, and even put in prison.

Therefore, on the nature of the war of aggression, right and wrong are still confused and there is no justice to speak of in the Japanese society.

In recent years, with Japan rising as an economic power, quite a few people, aiming to whitewash Japan's past of aggression, wantonly spread lies to obscure the nature of that war of aggression and to cover up war crimes.

They wrote about "aggression" as "entry" in textbooks, denied the "Nanking (Nanjing) Massacre" and lauded the aggression as "liberating

Asians." These are typical examples of their motives to whitewash Japan's war of aggression.

Disputing any admission of wrongdoing as the "sequelae of defeated nations," these Japanese deemed it "self-abuse" to admit aggression and repent the cruel war.

With ulterior motives and claiming to honor the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, they purposely obscured the demarcation line between victims and perpetrators of the war, creating great confusions among the Japanese people.

As a result, all kinds of absurd views such as "meritorious aggression," "justified revision" and "detrimental apology" keep popping up.

Last year, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the victory of the anti-Fascist war, the Japanese Diet, under pressure from the international community, passed a less-than-satisfactory "no-war resolution" after a half year of wrangling.

Contrary to the wishes of the initiators of the resolution to deceive world opinion, the resolution became instead an international laughing stock. Precisely because such reactionary perspectives of history have not been reckoned with, rightist thinking is increasingly rampant in the Japanese political arena.

Narrow-minded nationalism has gradually found its way back and a few political parties have regressed in policy-making along with breaking the taboo of sending troops overseas and strengthening the Japanese-US military alliance.

A few political parties brazenly challenged Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution which renounces for ever the use of war as a means of settling international disputes, trying to revise some more important articles such as one proclaiming never maintaining land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war forces and another one on not recognizing the right of belliger-

ence of the state. They even attempt to change the nature of the Japanese Self Defence Forces from an "exclusive defense" to an offensive one.

A handful of bigoted politicians even refused to acknowledge the 1945 trial by the international tribunal of the Japanese war criminals, objecting that it was a trial by victors against the defeated.

It is an obvious sign of wanton attempts to reverse the verdict on the war of aggression.

This shows that to date there are still politicians in the country who want to revive the dream of building the so-called "Great East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere."

The visit to Yasukuni Shrine by Japanese right-wing politicians is just a tip of an iceberg.

At present, the Japanese society is at a transitional period while Japanese politics are at a cross-roads.

It is very natural that Japan, with its economic powerhouse, wants to play a greater role in international affairs.

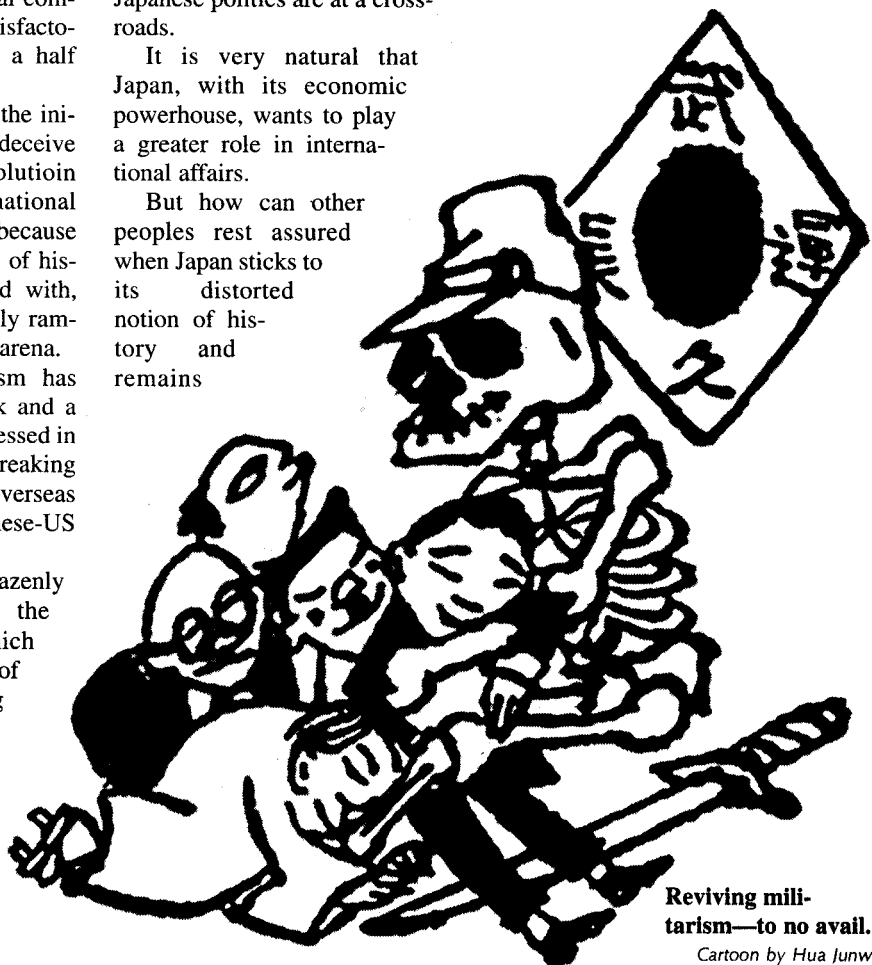
But how can other peoples rest assured when Japan sticks to its distorted notion of history and remains

eager to play the role of a big power in the world?

A serious self-examination of that history of invasion is the basic prerequisite for Japan to win the trust of other Asian nations and the international community.

If, however, Japanese politicians opt to obstinately deny truth, they will only make fools of themselves, damage the international image of Japan, and humiliate the Japanese people. Their act will inevitably meet with opposition and resistance from the Japanese people.

Only by reckoning with and renouncing the reactionary views of history and by taking a road of peace and development can the fundamental interest and future of Japan be ensured. ■



**Reviving militarism—to no avail.**  
Cartoon by Hua Junwu.



# New Russian Cabinet Faces Challenges

by Zhou Bian

**R**ussian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on August 22 appointing three first deputy prime ministers, seven deputy prime ministers, and 24 ministers. The new cabinet, however, is faced with a series of challenges on the political, economic and social fronts.

The three first deputy prime ministers are Alexei Bolshakov, former deputy prime minister, Viktor Ilyushin, former chief aide to the president, and Vladimir Potanin, the 35-year-old former chief of Uneximbank, one of Russia's leading private banks.

A number of key ministers from the outgoing cabinet will remain on their posts in the new government. They include Defense Minister Igor Rodionov, Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

The new cabinet is characterized by several new features. First, most of the new cabinet members served in the former government. Second, the majority of the new appointees are economic and financial experts. The appointment of banker Potanin and former economic aide Alexander Livshits is proof that Yeltsin hopes the new government can salvage the faltering Russian economy.

Third, the government is streamlined in order to improve efficiency. The number of ministries and administrative departments has decreased from 89 to 66, and all the 24 ministries and departments will be divided into nine divisions. Each of the deputy prime ministers will be responsible for a division.

The most surprising appointment is Bolshakov, who will oversee the sectors of industrial production, construction, transport and communica-

tions, and the use of natural resources. Bolshakov will act as prime minister whenever Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is absent.

It is believed that Bolshakov's appointment is a reward for his competence and sound collegial relations over the past two years.

Heading the economic division, Potanin will be responsible for coordinating the Ministry of Economics, the State Committee for the Anti-Monopoly Policy, the State Property Managing Committee, the State Committee for Statistics and other relevant departments.

According to the Russian media, the new government is not a coalition government but a "one-party" government.

The new government will confront serious economic, financial and social problems. Overall, it is expected that Yeltsin's policies for the past several years will be continued.

The thorniest issue for the time being is economic hardships and

financial strains. Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) for the first six months this year dropped by 5 percent compared with the same period last year, and the budgetary deficit now accounts for 5.5 percent of GDP. To make matters worse, only 60 percent of the federal tax receivable has been collected so far. Many economists believe that this fall will be a very difficult time for the Russian economy.

Compounding matters, the 20-month-old war in Chechnya is still dragging on. Removing this thorn in the side poses a formidable challenge to the federal government.

In addition, social unrest has aggravated as a result of the sharp deterioration in living standards in many parts of the country.

Finally, the opposition-led State Duma (lower house) is still at odds with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, which makes it difficult for the new government to push forward its policies. The relationship between the government and parliament will depend, to a large extent, on whether or not the government can rid the country of the prevailing economic crisis. A tough task in the best of times, economic rejuvenation is even more problematic given Russia's present conditions. ■

**Remembering Lenin:** Economic hardships are forcing many Russians to turn to the past.

CAI ZHIPAI



# Chinese Athletes In Atlanta

by Wang Bian

**T**he Chinese athletic delegation won a total of 50 medals in 14 events during the Atlanta games, ranking fourth in medals earned behind the United States, Russia and Germany, and matching China's record of 16 golds and 22 silvers in Barcelona four years ago. In addition, 63 athletes came fourth to eighth in events.

The gold went to Chinese athletes in nine events, including judo, weightlifting, swimming, marksmanship, gymnastics, diving, track and field, table tennis, and badminton.

Viewing the Olympics as a whole, the former situation under which the Olympics were dominated by several sports powers has changed and more countries and regions have become medal winners. While countries formidable in past years, like Russia and Germany, have declined to some extent, China has maintained its general level of performance and medal count. This indicates the steady development of China's sports, said Yuan Weimin, deputy head of the Chinese Olympic delegation.

## Demonstration of Strength

During the recent Olympics China added gold medals in weightlifting and badminton to its past achievements, a respectable testament to good talent, training and perseverance. China ranked second in the number of silver medals after the United States. Chinese athletes have every expectation that they will refine their growing athletic poten-

*Chinese athletes captured 16 gold, 22 silver and 12 bronze medals during the 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta, meeting goals set prior to the centennial games.*

tial. The male athletes especially showed remarkable improvement, taking home seven of the 16 gold medals, three more than in Barcelona. Women should be equally proud for winning the majority of gold medals.

China has maintained its dominance in sports it traditionally dominates. In table tennis, the national sports, China swept all gold medals, three silver and one bronze. The Chinese athletes captured three of the four gold medals in diving and matched the results in marksmanship and gymnastics at the previous Olympics. Some events which were weak in recent years, such as weightlifting and badminton, have been resurrected to medal status sports. The Chinese women's volleyball team took home a very satisfying silver.

Chinese athletes made historical breakthroughs in some other events. Women's soccer and softball both received a silver; women's handball and gymnastics finished a fifth; men's basketball placed eighth; and men's swimming and some small events in track and field turned in performances in the top eight.

There is no doubt that the 1996 Summer Olympics represented a banner year for China. Still, Chinese athletes have room to improve in the larger events such as track and field and events with numerous medals,

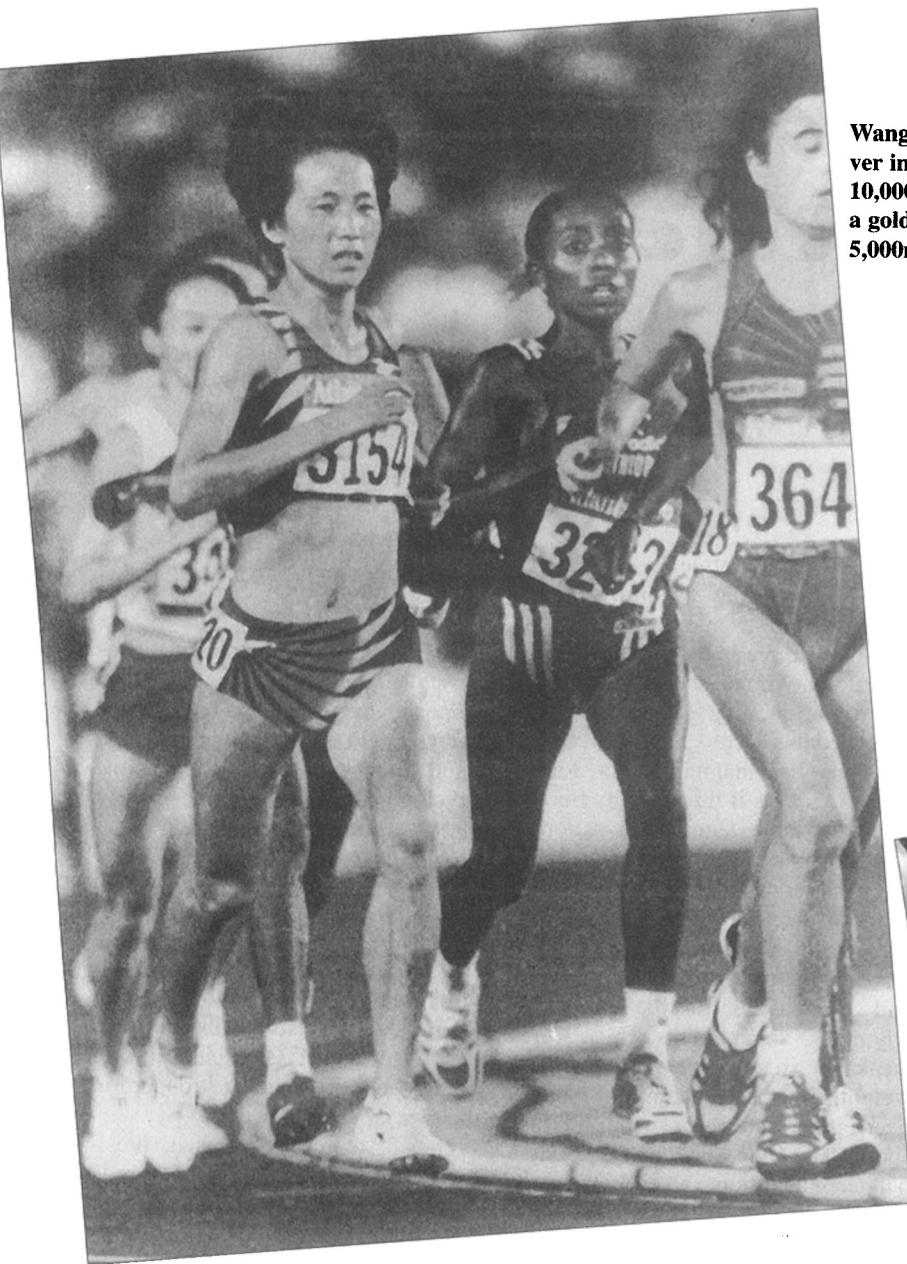
such as wrestling and yachting. Wu Shaozu, minister in charge of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission, noted that most athletes gave their best performances which demonstrated China's current athletic strength. He credits much of their improvement to China's economic development and the promotion of the National Physical Fitness Program.

## The Olympic Spirit

Athletes compete not only for gold medals and honors at the Olympics, but also for the personal challenge of the Olympic spirit of going "higher, faster and stronger" in their own performances.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), once said that athletes who personify the Olympic spirit through their performance are truly the best, despite how they might place in the competition.

Perhaps no athlete's efforts were more dramatic this year than the 36-year-old marksman Wang Yifu. On the first day of competition, Wang entered the arena of the men's 10-meter air pistol a bit unsteady. A veteran of four Olympics since 1984, Wang has captured several Olympic golds and World Championships. He is renowned as a fierce, consistent competitor in men's air pistol and

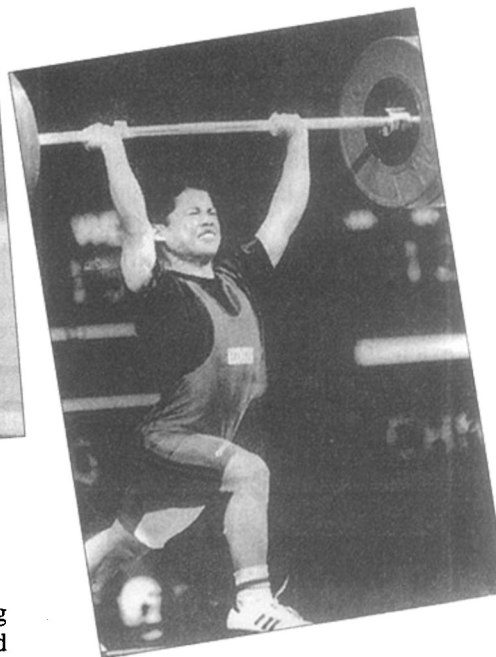


**Wang Junxia wins a silver in the women's 10,000m after capturing a gold in the women's 5,000m race.**

GUAN TIANYI

**Zhang Xiangsen wins the silver in the 54kg weightlifting event with a total score of 280kg.**

SONG XIAOGANG



pistol slow shooting. He was also the odds-on best for a gold medal in these two events. Unfortunately, just before the Games began, a low blood sugar problem and inner ear infection which had plagued him for years became acute, and Wang boarded the plane to Atlanta in a wheelchair. More disappointing, the condition worsened just one day before the competition, and Wang had to take an

oxygen tank to the arena.

An experienced competitor, Wang managed with difficulty, but he had to rest after each shot and take oxygen. Despite all this, Wang still entered the finals with the best preliminary scores, breaking the previous Olympic record. During the final contest, Wang led with 3.8 bull's-eyes in the first nine shots. The gold medal was clearly in his sights.

Wang stood up slowly and raised the pistol for his last shot and suddenly he felt dizzy and suffered from blurred vision. Others finished their shooting, and only Wang's pistol remained wavering in the air. The 75-second limit for firing was ticking away. Wang had not recovered his





**The Chinese women's football team waves to crowds while receiving their medals.**

SONG XIAOGANG

**Xiao Jun (left), silver medalist in the men's 10m running target with 679.8 points, and Yang Ling (right), the gold winner.**

ZHANG YANHUI



vision and had to take his last shot by instinct. His performance was remarkable given his debilitation—6.5 bull's-eyes—but it was not enough to hang on. Wang missed the gold medal by 0.1 point. The exhausted Wang fainted in the arms of his wife seconds later.

He Zhenliang, executive member of the IOC, told reporters, "Wang is undoubtedly the best." Zhang Heng, Wang's coach, said, "We are proud to have such an excellent athlete, and the silver medal he won is equal to a gold."

On the fourth day of competition,

the Chinese delegation was tough. In the men's 70kg weightlifting event, Zhan Xugang won the laurels with a 12.5kg advantage over the silver medalist, setting three world records in the jerk, snatch and total score.

Asked by reporters why he wanted to break the world record after



**Cao Mianying (left) and Zhang Xiuyun finish second in the women's double sculling.**

XU BU

**Although troubled by illness, Wang Yifu still captures a silver in marksmanship.**

ZHOU TU



winning the gold medal, Zhan answered, "I want to be the best."

The most brilliant star at this year's Olympics was Fu Mingxia, who is rightfully called "The queen of diving."

Eighteen-year-old Fu was the champion of the 10-meter women's platform diving at Barcelona in 1992. The success made her even more hungry for victory in two events this year—the women's platform and springboard diving. Only American Greg Louganis won two gold medals in diving and no female diver had

won gold for both events over the past several dozen years.

Fu's painstaking training paid off in Atlanta. She dominated the women's platform diving and surpassed her rivals in the springboard finals to finally secure the gold medal, writing a memorable page in Olympic history.

## **Beyond Success and Failure**

Behind every gold medal is four years of relentless training, passion,

sacrifice and dreams. Nowhere was this more evident for China's table-tennis gold medalists.

Table-tennis teams swept all the four gold medals at the Games, sure-fire evidenced of devotion and drive.

More than six months before the Games, the table-tennis teams began their closed training in a remote city. The coaches and athletes made thorough training plans and careful analysis of rivals. They stressed heavy training with repetitive movements, resting only one day during Spring Festival. They hoped for the

**Sui Xinmei wins a silver medal in the women's shot with a score of 19.88m.**

XU BU



**Dong Jiong, silver medalist in the men's single badminton.**

ZHANG YANHUI  
ZHANG YANHUI



gold like all athletes, but simply wanted only to do their best and place well in the event.

While the team has a galaxy of talented players, only several lucky ones could attend the Olympics, so many excellent athletes volunteered to act as ladder players. Even some masters playing abroad came back to join the training. Xu Yinsheng, chairman of China's Table Tennis Association, said the team's success represents not only individual tenacity but also reveals collective unity and sacrifice, and a patriotic spirit.

No one wants to be mediocre at the Olympic level, but sports is cruel. Success and failure are a part of every athlete's life. In fact, many athletes bid farewell to their sports career with life-long regrets after each Olympic games. Some Chinese athletes at Atlanta failed to reach their goals. Inexperience, lack of conditioning, and psychological problems can plague the best athlete, but some exterior disadvantages must also be considered.

The excessive commercialization of sports carried out by of some

Olympic sponsors has caused confusion and mistakes in organization. Compounding this is the questionable scoring of some judges during the games. Some athletes feel arbitrary scoring deprived them of the honors they deserved. All this has cast a pall over the sacred Olympic spirit.

Clearly the losers have endured similar hardships and are just as devoted as the winners. They deserve the same respect and admiration from their peers and countrymen as gold medalists. ■



# Hubei Leads Central China's Development

China's continuous economic growth over the past 16-odd years has created numerous favorable opportunities for Hubei. Large-scale construction can be found throughout the province, despite the fact that local economic development continues to lag behind that in coastal areas. The Wuhan cityscape will soon feature three posh five-star hotels, a sight never before seen by the city's several million people. Jingsha City plans to build a bridge spanning the Yangtze River, and an expressway linking the city with Wuhan is scheduled to open to traffic in the near future.

The greatest remaining challenge, however, is to transform the province into an important industrial base by early next century. By the year 2000, the province is expected to yield an annual output of 10 million tons of steel, 1 million motor vehicles, 400,000 tons of oil, and abundant power provided by the Three Gorges Hydropower Station on the Yangtze River. If calculated in terms of last year's economic growth rate of 12.4 percent, the province's per-capita GDP is expected to surpass 10,000 yuan by 2000.

To expedite its economic development, Hubei is currently pooling efforts to increase investments from two main sources—state and overseas investment.

## State Investment

According to one Beijing economist, every US\$1 of investment in the US auto industry creates a turnover of US\$7.6 for relevant industries, excluding increased incomes for those engaged in tertiary industries ranging from motor vehi-

*Hubei, a large central China province with a population of over 50 million, is highly likely to become one of the primary beneficiaries of China's strategy to shift the focus of economic development to central and western regions.*

cle dealership to maintenance and repair. Such statistics are still unavailable in China. However, for a developing country like China, only the central government has the ability to provide large-scale investments for basic industries.

One local official pointed out that government investment is essential for ensuring the development of central areas like Hubei where "one huge industrial project often creates a new city". A typical example is Xiaogan, a city located a short 60 km from Wuhan.

Between 1991-93, over 10,000 people moved from nearby mountainous areas to Xiaogan. Despite the fact that the huge influx of people added a heavy burden to the city's limited infrastructure facilities and significantly increased local government subsidies for water, electricity and food, the city's gains far outstripped outlays. Enterprises staffed with engineers, technicians and skilled workers have moved to the city, bringing both technology and equipment.

A few decades ago, the ministries of aeronautics and astronautics, and nuclear and ordinance industries opened numerous ordinance factories in remote mountain valleys. The factories were not only staffed by a large contingent of highly skilled professionals and technicians, but also possessed the nation's most advanced machinery and equipment. In the

early 1980s, however, the enterprises found themselves in a difficult position due to the government effort to gradually reduce ordinance production. While the government required such factories to shift production to civilian products, disadvantageous locations and inconvenient transportation facilities greatly hindered their market competitiveness. The government addressed such problems by moving 100-plus former ordinance enterprises to suitable areas during each of the past five-year plan period.

Since 1987, some 12 of the aforementioned enterprises have moved to Xiaogan's new industrial development area built especially for them. The entry of the enterprises was extraordinarily significant to Xiaogan which previously lacked any semblance of modern industry. According to Mayor Weng Xingde, prior to 1987, the city's 300-odd chemical fertilizer and farm tools workshops yielded only minimal economic returns.

The former mountain enterprises not only brought Xiaogan sophisticated equipment, advanced technology and professional elites, but also 1.2 billion yuan in state and US\$140 million in foreign investment. Over the past five years, the city's GDP has soared by an annual average of 16.1 percent, the highest level since 1949. Completion of the new industrial development zone has also

expanded the city's urban area from 4.5 square km to more than 20 square km.

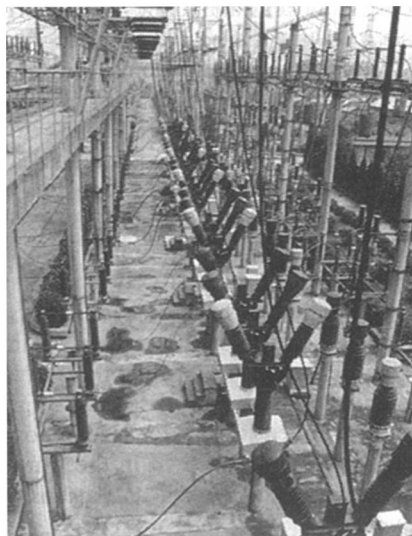
The aforementioned factors readily explain why the Xiaogan mayor once rushed to Beijing and waited for hours in front of a responsible official's home for an opportunity to convince him to move a former military factory to the city. The mayor's perseverance truly reflects the enthusiasm Hubei people have for rapidly achieving industrialization.

Hubei Governor Jiang Zhuping noted that investment must outstrip the national average if Hubei hopes to exceed the national average level of economic growth in five years.

Jingmen is a comparatively backward city located in central Hubei. During the Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1996-2000), a total of 17.5 billion yuan is expected to be invested in the city's infrastructure con-

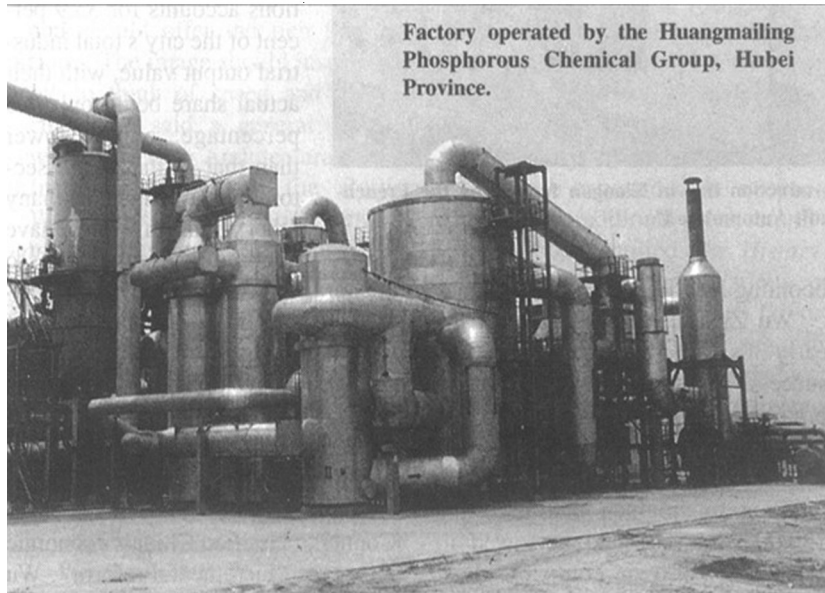
fully aware of the fact that profuse investment in no way equals high efficiency, and that the basic way to achieve high economic returns is to continue to reform state-owned enterprises, and transform them into modern enterprises readily adaptable to the market economy. Proceeding with this approach, the province has taken the effective way of organizing highly competitive enterprise groups.

Jingmen has already created a successful example. Some 13 small and medium-sized state-owned chemical and pharmaceutical enterprises have formed a "federated" business group, with the Zhongtian Corp., the parent company, functioning as the property owner. Various subsidiaries practice independent accounting, with the parent company exercising control over the distribution of capital and retaining the right to examine various capital outlays of



**Jingmen Heat and Power Plant fuels Hubei's economic upsurge.**

assets of more than 400 million yuan helped solve the problem. Within only two years, the group raised over 300 million yuan through the issuance of stocks and bonds.



**Factory operated by the Huangmailing Phosphorous Chemical Group, Hubei Province.**

struction, with the major portion of the funding coming in the form of government investment. Plans also call for the city's GDP to grow by 20 percent annually during the five-year period. According to one local government official, actual investments will most likely top 20 billion yuan, while the economic growth rate is also controlled at desirable levels.

Hubei government officials are

subsidiaries. One of the major advantages of large business groups are their strong capacity for financing. For example, in 1995, one chemical enterprise under the aforementioned group needed 70 million yuan to improve its product mix. However, the enterprise had fixed assets of only 30 million yuan, and the bank refused the loan application. Nonetheless, the business group which had fixed

### Foreign Investment

Limited government investment is far from enough to invigorate the economies of central and western regions, and the introduction of foreign capital has a tremendous potential in the regions since the effort still remains in the preliminary stage. According to statistics through September 1995, total overseas investment in China amounted to US\$110 billion, over 90 percent of which went to coastal areas, and only US\$8.4 billion found its way to 18 central and western provinces and autonomous regions.

The investment Taiwan businessman Jason Kuo introduced to Hubei was quite incidental. While on a business trip to Germany, Kuo met the director of a Hubei-based electrical appliance factory, and following an agreeable discussion the two decided to open a joint venture in the province. The venture has yielded unexpected results.

According to an official from the State Planning Commission, the low-

cost labor and abundant raw materials in inland China are attracting the westward seepage of Hong Kong and Taiwan investment from east China.

A number of domestic enterprises located in southeast coastal areas have already initiated westward development, and are thus referred to as the forerunners of foreign investment. He Shijin, an entrepreneur from Zhejiang Province, purchased a Hubei factory for 10 million yuan. The Hengdian Group, another large Zhejiang-based enterprise, had originally planned to transfer all the population of a small town in the Three Gorges area to the coast as a means to overcome local labor shortage. However, following an on-site investigation in Hubei, group managers dropped the original plan and decided to construct five new enterprises in the central and western regions.

According to an official from the State Planning Commission, despite the fact that central and western regions as a whole have only completed the first step in industrialization, large industrial bases and scientific and technological centers such as Wuhan, Chengdu, Xian and Lanzhou are highly likely to become inland hot spots for foreign investment. Large and medium-sized state-owned enterprises in these cities feature relatively advanced equipment, technology and a quality work force, and can easily supplement their advantages by establishing joint or cooperative ventures with overseas companies.

A prime example is the Shenlong Automobile Co. Ltd., a joint venture the French Citroen Automobile Co. and Hubei No.2 Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Co. established with a total investment of 4.82 billion francs. The venture, one of China's eight key automobile projects and the largest French-funded enterprise in China, is designed to produce 150,000 cars annually.

The province plans to attract and

use some US\$9 billion in foreign capital by the turn of this century. To achieve this goal, the province has already opened Wuhan, Huangshi, Yichang and the Three Gorges area, and plans to include Jingsha, Xiangfan and Shiyan into the ranks of open cities. The overall goal is to internationalize the local economy.

### Private Economy

Just as in many other localities, Hubei's private businesses grew from simply roadside stalls selling haberdashery goods or snacks, and are today an indispensable part of the

dissatisfaction with the small scale of private businesses by encouraging them to strive for increased output value. City officials expect that some 10 private enterprises with an annual output value exceeding 100 million yuan each will emerge during the next five years. Upon the fulfillment of the goal by the year 2000, some 20 percent of the city's total industrial output value will be contributed by private enterprises, and one in every six of the city's workforce will be employed by related businesses.

According to one local government official, the less developed private sector is one of the factors

restricting economic progress in inland areas. According to Xinhua News Agency, the industrial output value of Shanghai-based private enterprises and township businesses which include many private operations accounts for 35.9 percent of the city's total industrial output value, with their actual share being only 1.6 percentage points lower than that of the public sector. Just as Xiaogan, many other cities in Hubei have adopted measures to



Mini-bus production line in Xiaogan funded by the French-based Renault Automobile Co.

Photos by SUN ANJIANG

booming local economy.

Wu Zuyun, a young man in his early 30s, is an example of personal success. Eight years ago Wu was a bricklayer in debt to the tune of 6,000 yuan. Wu attempted to repay the debt by finding a job in Zhejiang. He later returned to Jingmen and used the 120,000 yuan he had borrowed to establish his own company. Last year, Wu's company recorded a business volume of well over 7 million yuan.

The government policy of encouraging a group of people to become the first to gain wealth has stimulated the rapid development of non-public economic sectors. Measures Xiaogan had adopted to encourage the development of private enterprises have led to the emergence of 160,000 private businesses in the city. However, the city government has exhibited its

encourage development of the private sector. For example, Jingmen City has even established a private economic development zone covering 20 hectares.

Economist Wu Jinglian, director of the Economic Development Research Center under the State Council, classified China's economic reform as "incremental reform". Wu compares the national economy to a house. He contends that rather than damaging the original pillar (the state-owned economy), reform will add more pillars (township and private enterprises, etc.) to support the house. He says state-owned, foreign-funded and private enterprises will eventually form a "tripartite balance of forces".

Hubei and, in fact, the country as a whole hope to achieve this comparatively mature economic pattern. ■



# Debate Over Modern or Traditional Architecture in Beijing

by Our Special Reporter Wang Feng

**W**hen the Beijing Western Railway Station was completed in three years at the end of 1995, the mass media hailed it as the last grand project of the century. The station, which covers a construction area of 300,000 square meters and was built at a cost of over 4.5 billion yuan, has a distinctive traditional flavor.

However, the station's "traditional flavor" has attracted criticism from various experts. "Structures servicing the transportation sector should be bright, spacious and novel in design, and should offer the rich flavor of times. The image should inspire people to think of speed and ongoing changes," said a general architect with the Beijing Architectural Design Institute. "However, the Beijing Western Railway Station reminds people of ancient post stations."

One professor with the Architecture Department of Tsinghua University expressed puzzlement, "A railway station must often symbolizes the gate to a city. Why is the Beijing Western Railway Station

heavily burdened with three-tiered eaves and a pavilion roof with four slopes?"

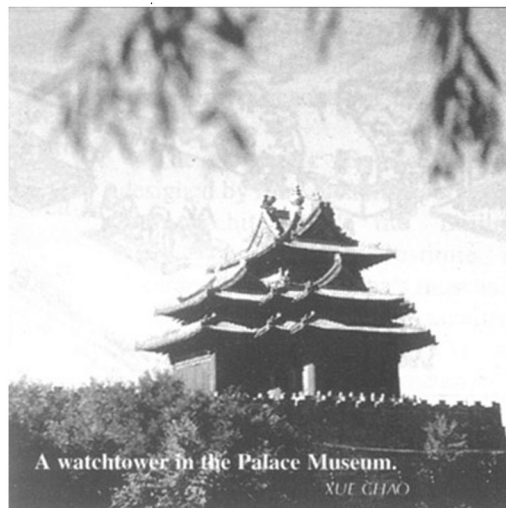
A university student who often passes the Beijing Western Railway Station spoke quite frankly, "The style is neither Chinese, nor Western. It is far from attractive."

## An Old Topic

The dispute surrounding the Beijing Western Railway Station revives an old topic.

The question of applying traditional architectural styles to modern creations has emerged on several occasions amongst China's architectural circles in the 20th century.

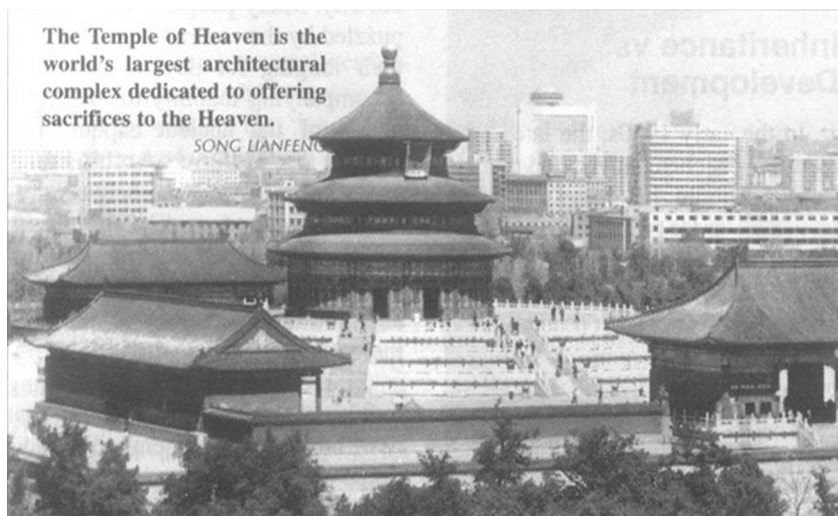
As early as in the 1930s, architect Le Jiazao expounded the necessities to inherit traditional architectural art in his book entitled *The History of Chinese Architecture*. Various new buildings featuring the rich flavor of tradition appeared at the suggestion of Le and various other scholars. A quite interesting phenomenon revolved around the fact that tradi-

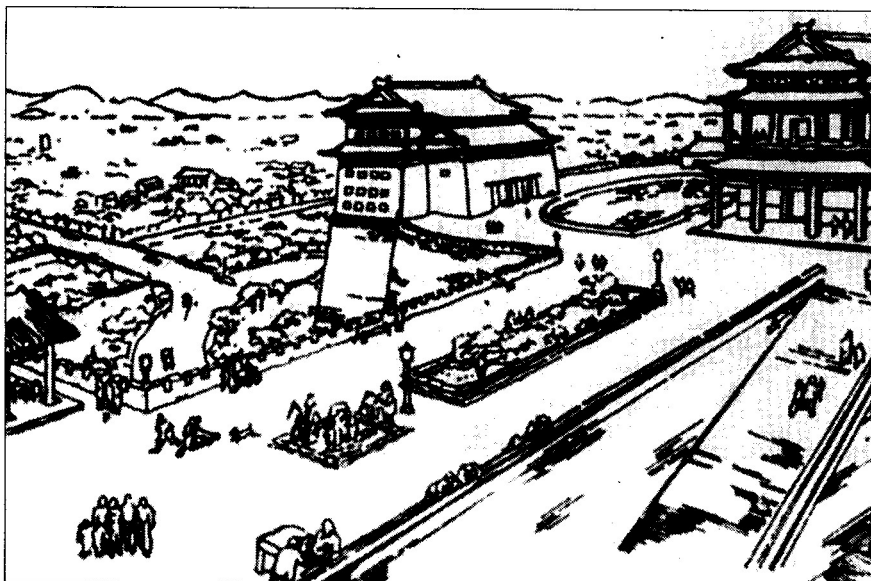


tional architectural complexes appeared mostly in Shanghai, a metropolis heavily influenced by overseas culture, including the Shanghai municipal government building and the Shanghai Branch of Bank of China.

In the 1950s, some 50 percent of the major buildings constructed in Beijing absorbed traditional flavor. They included the West Wing of the Beijing Hotel, the Cultural Palace of Nationalities and the National Defense Ministry, which feature double-eaves and traditional Chinese curved roof architecture. However, these buildings, which enrich the appearance of the ancient capital to varying degrees, have also stirred dispute in architectural circles.

The 1990s witnessed the unprecedented scale of urban construction, which has been accompanied by the revival of traditional architecture. In early 1995, Beijing hosted an architectural design exhibition entitled the Flourishing Architectural Art and Revived Appearance of the Ancient Capital. Of the 65 exhibits, 40 featured the style of traditional curved roofs. The rigid adherence to traditional architecture in the metropoli-





*Beijing Citizens Enjoying a Cool Summer Evening, a sketch depicting the dream cherished by great Chinese architect Liang Sicheng.*

Contributed by SHENG HUO

tan city of Beijing has been a major source of concern to people both inside and outside of the trade.

In fact, architectural circles initiated discussions on "traditions vs creativity" as early as the 1980s, with said discussions evolving into a debate following the construction of the Queli Hotel in Qufu, Shandong Province, in 1985.

Some said the hotel represents the creative direction centering on the inheritance of national traditions, while various young and middle-aged architects held a much different opinion.

Prof. Chen Keshi with Tsinghua University pointed out, "The Queli Hotel adopted a conservative style in opposition to the coordinated traditional style. It does not represent the direction of our times. We can only look to the future when viewing the poetic flavor of architecture of today."

Yet another dispute revolved around the renovation of the Liulichang Culture Street, a street widely recognized as featuring the traditional culture in Beijing. During the renovation, original facades were replaced by replicas. Architects contend that such a cultural street is sim-

ply the result of historical accumulation. They say that historical heritage cannot be duplicated.

Prof. Chen Zhihua with Tsinghua University said, "No city in the world would feature imitations of ancient buildings. New buildings should present the new outlook." Architectural expert Zeng Zhaofeng expressed similar feelings by pointing out, "Forcing architects and cities to accept 'national styles', which are actually the Ming and Qing styles, or the Ming and Qing palace styles, is contradictory to the development of modern cities. This represents retrogression."

## Inheritance vs Development

In the early 1950s, the late architect Liang Sicheng advocated that old Beijing should be completely preserved in order to protect the city's cultural value in the world. He proposed that the new city area should rise to the west of the old city.

"Years later, Beijing's old city will become a huge historical museum, with parks built along the moat," said Liang, a man filled with lofty sentiments and aspirations. "And the 10-meter-wide city walls may be land-

scaped with flower beds, lilacs and lawns. These parks will be an ideal place for hundreds of thousands of people to enjoy the cool during otherwise hot summer evenings. People will be able to walk along the walls to enjoy the distant cityscape on clear crisp autumn days."

However, Liang's cherished dream was in fact nothing more than a mirage. Beijing's highway network has grown enormously, and high-rise buildings now cast their shadows on the



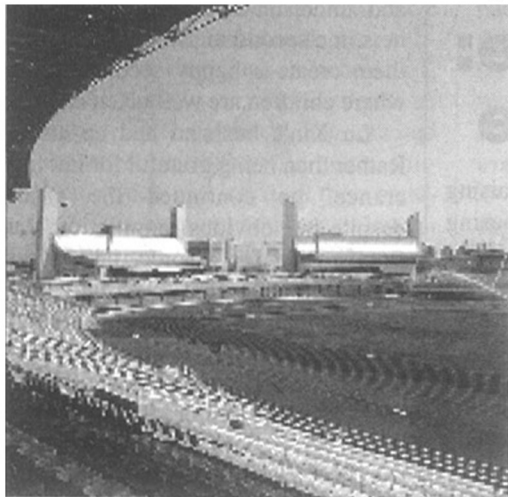
CHEN ZONGJIE

**The Cultural Palace of Nationalities built in the 1950s.**

old city. Many people are somewhat puzzled by the contradiction between their longing for development, and accompanying inability to forget the charm of the ancient capital. The choice of preferred architectural styles seem to fluctuate between traditional and modern.

In 1986, the Beijing Capital Architectural Arts Commission announced its decision to preserve the outlook of the ancient capital.

In the early 1990s, the Beijing municipal government decided that new buildings must embody traditional architectural styles, and that the City Planning Bureau would



XUE CHAO

Stadium at the Beijing Olympic Sports Center.

refrain from granting approval for designs lacking national style. Architecture design institutes in some localities established special groups in charge of roof design.

In 1993, the Beijing municipal government called for fresh efforts to "revive the appearance of the ancient capital." This led to the construction of a large group of modern buildings incorporating ancient styles of roofs.

Some members of the architectural sector expressed their dissatisfaction with many of the structures. Zhang Kaiji, an octogenarian architectural expert, said that new buildings often destroy the original character of traditional buildings. "Regardless of how beautiful the roofs, most modern buildings leave people feeling brusque and impetuous," he added.

In terms of architectural aesthetics, experts point to the oversimplification of the concept that "traditional Chinese curved roofs" are the only tradition of Chinese architecture. Traditional Chinese wooden structures, in fact, stress horizontal and shallow lines, while eliminating vertical lines. Sloping roofs add harmony to this particular kind of building. On the other hand, modern buildings feature vertical lines, and the incorporation of a sloping roof defies architectural law and gives the entire structure the appearance of stiffness.

## Food for Thought

Many experts and scholars note that Beijing and Paris are two of the world's most unusual ancient cities, with both having long-standing cultural traditions and relatively strict standardization.

The difference between the two cities is that Paris teems with ancient architectural complexes with well-preserved surrounding environments. French architects, however, are encouraged to create new buildings suited to new times.

"Modern buildings in Paris reveal no traces of old times, but instead reveal novel and purely architectural language.... They both actually and lyrically represent modern times in an ancient nation," said architect Wu Zhaohui.

Architectural practices in recent years have proved that people should tap traditional connotations of the national spirit, thinking and characteristics, with the effort based on appropriately selecting which to inherit and develop. Designers should refrain from rigidly adhering to form.

Beijing's Fragrant Hills Hotel has

a typically flat roof, which contrasts greatly its whitewashed and gray brick walls. Windows open to scene of a vast expanse of walls and provide guests with a cordial feeling for tradition. The application of modern techniques enables guests to clearly feel the traditional garden landscaping characteristics of the area south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River.

The Olympic Sports Center, designed by Ma Guoxin, deputy general architect of the Beijing Architectural Design Institute, is regarded as one of China's most successful examples of modern architecture. Ma noted that he did his best to show the magnificent momentum of "the combination of the Heavens and human beings" from a macro angle. The distinctively rising and falling outlines of the sports center, as well as tall straight columns, luster, smooth concave curved roof and elevated crossbeams provide people with a feeling of the ingenious integration of new technology and traditional form.

"The national flavor of architecture evolves with historical change, and there are no fixed models to follow," said Ma. "We should create the present and future, but never forget the past."

The "rich national flavor" of the Beijing Western Railway Station, has touched off a debate.

XUE CHAO



# Reconstructing a Life: Women after Divorce

by Chen Xinxin

**T**he divorce rate in China has risen steadily since the late 1970s.

Chinese concepts of marriage and the family, as in all nations, are affected by both tradition and modern lifestyles. In many of China's current 267 million families, wives and husbands enjoy equality and mutual respect. Women's status in the family has greatly improved. Women are no longer bound to join their husbands' large family after marriage. People in both urban and rural areas generally have accepted the concept of family planning. Women enjoy more decision-making power in childbearing than they did in the past.

More than 90 percent of Chinese families are stable, but the remainder wind up in divorce. According to the State Statistical Bureau, 910,000 couples, or 9.98 percent of the 9.12 million newly married couples, divorced in 1993. The divorced population was 1.54 percent of the total. In 1994, 980,000 couples divorced, 10.56 percent of the 9.29 million newly-married couples.

## Economic Pressure

Surveys found that most children live with mothers after a divorce, resulting in a large number of single-parent families. According to Dong Yunhu from the China Human Rights Society, 1.2 percent of the children in China live in single-parent families, most of whom live with their mothers. In Beijing, 72 percent of the children whose parents have divorced live with their mothers, and the rest with their fathers.

Most Chinese women feel great economic pressure after divorce due to the fact that they are generally paid less than men in China. In addition, divorced men provide only a portion

of the costs associated with raising children. Factoring in the housing problem, the living standards of divorced women with children drops considerably compared with pre-divorce levels.

For example, Li Hong's marriage ended because her husband had an affair. She asked the court for custody of her daughter. Based on the salary figure her husband provided to the court, the judge decided that he should provide 80 yuan in monthly child support. Li knew that her husband earned more than 2,000 yuan extra from writing. She could not provide evidence, and her child was deprived of the financial support she deserved.

Li and her daughter moved in with her parents where her brother and sister-in-law also live. Soon she felt alienated from her family. Her sister-in-law was especially unfriendly and cold. She decided to move out, and rented a modest house. At 400 yuan per month, the rent cost more than half her salary, and the tuition for her daughter's schooling had also increased. In winter, extra costs for heat and clothing make it hard to make ends meet. Li looks older than her age due to economic pressure and housework requiring heavy physical labor.

## Second Marriages

Statistics from the Ministry of Civil Affairs reveal that among marriages registered in 1994, 780,000 were second marriages, and 378,000 registrants were women, 38.57 percent of the total divorced women that year. Statistics also show that more men tend to remarry after divorce less than men. This means that hundreds of thousands of women choose to remain single each year.

Learning from past misfortune, many women stress mutual respect

and understanding from their partners in a second marriage, so most of them create a happy second family where children are well taken care of.

Lu Xin's husband had an affair. Rather than being grateful for her tolerance, he continued the affair despite her obvious humiliation. Lu finally filed for divorce, taking her child with her. She eventually met Zhou, a man who had been similarly hurt by infidelity. The pair eventually fell in love and Lu, 36, married Zhou, six years her senior, the following year.

That was 10 years ago, and Lu Xin reports that her second marriage has been extremely happy. Their son has entered college, and their daughter studies in a senior middle school. The four of them often stroll in the park, or play chess or cards in their spare time. The couple have both been promoted.

Due to the remnants of traditional feudal concepts on family and marriage, however, many divorced women are discriminated against and find it hard to look for new partners, especially if they have a child. Some have reluctantly remarried due to economic pressure, a desperate move usually resulting in crisis down the line. It is particularly unfair, though a common pattern worldwide, that divorced women are stigmatized much more than divorced men. This double standard and its attendant psychological pain is a social problem which troubles both individual women and the society as a whole.

Gao Xian, 35, insisted on bringing up her 10-year-old daughter after divorcing her husband. With her talent and university education, she was confident she could find a better husband. To her surprise, it was not as easy as she expected.

## Child Care

A specialist on women's issues notes that it is hard to heal children's trauma from divorce and prejudice from society, although their mothers try hard to ensure a happy childhood. These mothers, often overwhelmed

with work and household labor, have limited time to spend with their children, who may lack psychological comfort and communications at home. This dynamic has created abnormal psychology in some children, which will last until their maturity. This phenomenon is well known in Western nations, where single mothers have been common for many years. In China, however, the situation is new and no less difficult. Some experts have reminded divorced mothers and families of taking intense care of these children.

Experts unanimously advise parents to tell children the truth about impending divorces and family changes so they might adjust more quickly to these major changes.

Hou Ping's daughter was only one year old when her husband left her. One day a few years later, the girl asked her mother why she had never seen her father. Instead of telling her the truth—that her father had abandoned them—Hou said that her father

had been on a business trip far away. After that, the girl started marking the calendar, asking when her father would return. Finding it difficult to continue lying, Hou told the girl everything.

She didn't think her daughter was capable of accepting or understanding the truth, but instead the child made noticeable adjustments, studied harder, and became more independent. Now she goes to the children's palace to learn dancing herself, and does homework without being urged by her mother. Hou feels grateful for her daughter's changes and continues her policy of telling the truth, even when it is unpleasant.

Some divorced mothers have taught their children how to face reality and grow up soundly, making whatever sacrifice is called for. Gu Baozhi is an example. Her son, Gu Hao, who hosts a sports program at Zhengzhou Radio Station in Henan Province, was born blind. The mother, already heartbroken by her son's

deformity, was further devastated by her husband's request for divorce because of the handicapped son. Gu Baozhi's mother was seriously ill at that time, too. She nearly collapsed under the strain but was somehow able to pull herself together. While caring for her mother, she taught her son to live as independently as possible. She told the boy about the stories of Helen Keller, the famous blind Chinese musician Ah Bing, and handicapped woman author Zhang Haidi.

Gu also developed the boy's natural talents and helped him develop his confidence through hobbies. As a result, the boy is psychologically healthy, ready to help others, and good at learning and playing accordion. With his talent in analyzing sports, Gu Hao eventually became a sports host. He tells his audience that he could not be successful without the love and perseverance of his extraordinary mother. ■

## Tenth National Jewelry Fair

The 10th National Jewelry Fair will be held at the Cultural Palace for Nationalities in Beijing between September 5-11.

The 1996 fair will be sponsored by the China Gem Association (CGA) and organized by the Beijing Gem Association's Gem Consulting Service Center Co. Ltd.

The event will focus on finished and semi-finished gold and silver jewelry, jade carvings, ornamental stones and raw gems, as well as gem processing and appraisal equipment. To guarantee the interests of consumers, this year's fair will offer on-site appraisal customs conducted by the *appraisal office of the CGA*.

Interested parties both from home and abroad are welcome to attend the fair.

### Gem Consulting Service Center Co. Ltd., the Beijing Gem Association

Add: No.64 Funei Street, Xicheng District, Beijing 100812, China

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# Tea House Consoles Divorced Women

by Fu Qing

A home for divorced women to visit for group chats in order to help heal their tattered hearts has opened in Beijing.

The small house is not easy to find, but it has attracted numerous divorced women. Shi Jianping, the founder of the tea house, said that more than 200 women have joined the home since it was set up in October last year. Of those, 90 percent are divorced, and the rest are in marital crisis. The majority are middle-aged with a middle school education, and many are laid-off workers.

According to Shi, 42, many women about her age in Beijing spent their youth in the countryside under arduous conditions. Their charming looks dissipated early, and now they have heavy family burdens. Most of them have been hurt by their husbands despite their sacrifice to the family.

Shi named the women's tea house "Women's Chayuan," meaning that women from unhappy marriages share a predestined lot. Shi, herself shattered by an empty marriage, said she wanted to start the tea house for divorced women after she remarried. "Knowing how miserable I was in a bad marriage, I wanted to give other women perplexed by unhappy marriages like me a place to sit down and talk to each other, airing their sorrow and probably learning something from each other," Shi said.

Every Sunday afternoon, over 60 women gather in the supportive atmosphere of the tea house, free from cold looks or sneers, where they are free to vent the misery which they rarely discuss with others. They comfort each other, help each other understand their broken marriages, and offer suggestions for a better life.

"Before I came to the tea house, I

was unable to crawl out of my depression," said 40-year-old Wang. "My husband and I both went to the countryside when we were young. After we returned to Beijing, he started doing business, and we gradually became better off. But he is no longer what he was. Since August last year we've lived apart. I was terribly upset and cried for days. One day a friend of mine took me to the tea house. Here I've discovered I'm not the only one suffering from marriage problems. With the comfort and support of my sisters here, I've changed my outlook and I now realize why my marriage proved unsuccessful."

"One important reason is that I had difficulty with the social relations in our marriage," Wang continued. "My mother-in-law and I didn't get along well. I often complained that she didn't give me any financial help when I was pregnant, so when she was short of 300 yuan for a color TV set, I refused her. Later I found my husband had given her the money behind my back. Our relationship deteriorated after that. If I have another family, I won't make similar mistakes."

Another woman, 41-year-old Liu, credits her divorce with newfound self-respect and freedom. It was Liu that initiated the split. "He refused to divorce me, but I was really fed up with his selfishness and laziness. He was self-centered, never shared the housework, and often beat the child. I tried a dozen years to make do with the marriage, but my patience was exhausted. My marriage was doomed for two reasons. One is that I married him without thoroughly knowing his character. The other is that I wasn't assertive enough. Women should be brave enough to live independently. Excessive tolerance is in fact a manifestation of weakness."

Unfortunately, Shi said that many women lack the social courage to live

independently. When a woman called Yang first came to the shelter, Shi said, she looked unkempt, and one sleeve was torn. Yang was more frightened than angry when she learned that her husband had an affair and even had a child with that woman. She became hyper-sensitive, unable to even watch a TV drama about infidelity. She was ultimately so depressed that she wanted to commit suicide.

"The first thing I asked her to do when I saw her at the tea house was go back home and get dressed up," Shi said. "She has gained confidence after several sessions here. She is going to sue her husband and protect her interests with the Marriage Law." Shi said seven other women have also started to protect their rights and interests with the law.

"Gatherings at the tea house help ease our suffering and cheer us up," said Zhang, who joined the group after reading about the tea house in a local newspaper. "As soon as I read the report I just wanted to rush there to get everything off my chest," she said. "I thought I was the most unlucky woman in the world. I willingly sacrificed my career and took care of the family in order to support his. After all that, he kicked me out. I spent the past year in tears and nearly collapsed. Once I came to the tea house, I found my misery was nothing compared with other sisters, so I started to help them. Gradually, I forgot my own sorrows and regained my normal self. At the same time, I got great joy from helping others." Zhang said she plans to rent two counters in a shop to sell glasses for a factory and thus begin her own small business. She is now confident about her future life.

Gratified by her success, Shi is nonetheless cautious that the tea house is simply a friendly place for divorced women to air their grief. It cannot provide professional psychological help at this time, although Shi said she will invite some psychological experts to give occasional lectures when possible.

Some experts have explained that

Chinese women are socialized to be emotionally dependent. They are treated as weak people from their early childhood, so they naturally learn to depend on others and doubt themselves. When they grow up, marriage and family interject a renewed sense of worth. But once a marriage goes wrong, it is emotionally devastating since so much of a woman's identity is invested in her relationships.

The same is not true for men however. This helps explain the conven-

tional belief that a woman is content as long as her family life is intact, despite career setbacks, layoffs, low pay, or low status. In fact, even if a woman has a successful career and high earnings, she still feels unlucky if her marriage founders.

The experts encourage women not to vest their identity in marriage and husbands alone. Women will not attain long-lasting happiness unless they have their own substantial life and can manage their lives independently.

Fortunately, there is a great future in helping divorced women. Shi is planning to establish an economic entity to put their collective skills to work—either a restaurant or a commercial tea house. "Many of the women here are laid-off workers, and it's impractical to wait for government aid. If we have a restaurant or tea house, these women can have a job. And with the income, I can invite experts to give lectures or hold seminars."

## A Day of a Chinese Woman

**T**he Survey and Consultation Center of China Central TV has completed a nationwide survey titled "Issues on Chinese Women."

The survey reveals that women in both urban and rural areas work 367.2 minutes on the job a day on average, less than men, who work 402.9 minutes per day. Women spend an average of 33.6 minutes getting to and from work, also less than the 38.8 minutes men spend.

Urban women work outside the home 352 minutes daily, while rural women work 373 minutes. They spend 42.4 minutes getting to and from work, more than rural women who spend 30 minutes.

Housework is the main household activity for women in their daily lives. For the purposes of this survey, household labor includes cooking, washing clothes, and shopping but not child care or cleaning the home. Women spend 192.3 minutes on average per day on the three activities, much more than the 111.5 minutes men spend.

Women also spend an average of 93.5 minutes on cooking, nearly double the 47.4 minutes men spend on this activity. Rural women spend a little more time on cooking than urban women.

Washing clothes takes up 52.4 minutes per day of women's time,

much more than the 27.5 minutes men spend doing wash. Rural women also spend a little more time than urban women on this item.

Shopping takes an average of 64.3 minutes per day for women, much more than men, who spend only 36.3 minutes purchasing goods. This is the one household labor urban women spend more time on than rural women.

With household labor consuming so much of women's time, reading opportunities are concomitantly reduced. Women spend 36.5 minutes reading daily on average, while men spend 49.7 minutes. Urban women spend much more time reading than

rural women and men, but less than urban men. Rural women spend less time on this item than rural men.

Watching TV is a popular leisure activity for women. Only 2.6 percent of Chinese women have never watched television. Women spend as long as 156.8 minutes watching TV on average, a figure surpassed only by the time they spend sleeping (445.6 minutes) and working (367 minutes). Still, time spent watching TV is a little less than men (160.1 minutes).

Urban women spend more time watching TV than rural women. The survey did not differentiate between merely having the television on while doing household labor or watching television exclusively with no extraneous activities.

# Underwear

飛馬



FLYING HORSE

Shanghai Jingde Knitting Mill

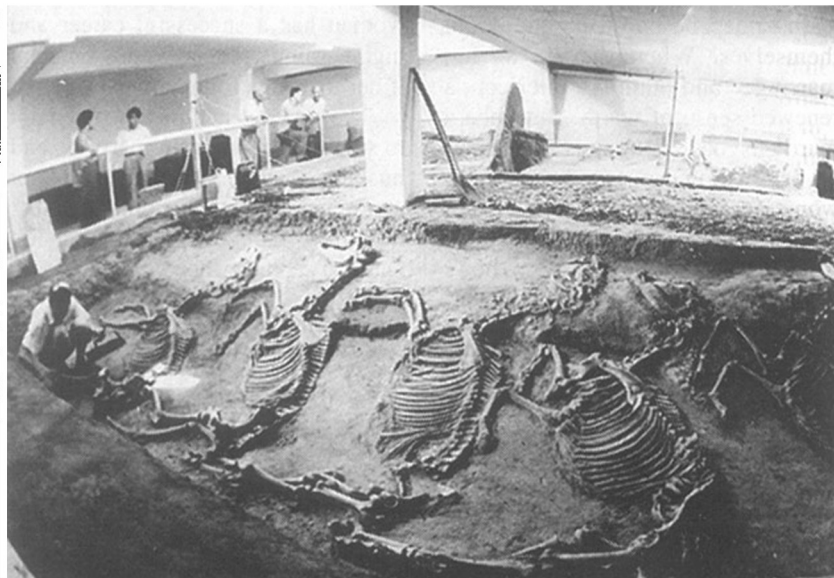
## A New Itinerary: Zibo 2-Day Tour

**A**s capital of the Qi State in the periods of the Spring and Autumn (770-476 BC) and the Warring States Period (475-221 BC), Zibo in Shandong Province has rich historic remains dating back 800 years and tourist resources.

Zibo, located in the central part of Shandong Province, is accessible by the Jiaozhou-Jinan Railway and Jinan-Qingdao Expressway which both run across the city. It is 270 km from Qingdao, 100 km from Jinan, and over 400 km from Beijing.

Its main scenic spots include the Ancient Carriage Museum, the Eastern Zhou Dynasty Sacrificial Horse Pit, the Ancient City Museum and the Taigong Ancestral Temple.

The ancient carriage remains, unearthed when the Jinan-Qingdao Expressway was built in 1990, was recognized as one of the 10 largest archaeological discoveries of the year. The museum was completed in 1994 with an investment of 8 million yuan. It uses a variety of mediums to display its collections, including models and pictures which detail the evolution of China's ancient carriages. With its exquisite ornaments,



SUN WEIQING

**The Ancient Carriage Museum.**

numerous accessories and pristine preservation, it is the largest, most complete and systematic ancient carriage museum in China, perhaps in the world.

The Eastern Zhou Dynasty Sacrificial Pit contains over 600 skeletons of real horses which were buried during the rule of Jinggong, duke of the State of Qi. Of those, 106 have been unearthed and protected with archeological preservation methods. The horses were used as

war steeds and were carefully arranged in two lines after they were slaughtered, with their heads raised facing outward, lying sideways in a galloping posture, showing their might before battle.

The Ancient City Museum is modeled, in a smaller scale, after the Qi State capital, displaying the historic story of the Qi State in sculptures and valuable unearthed cultural relics of the time.

The Taigong Ancestral Temple

**The former residence of Pu Songling.**

PI DAWEI



was built to commemorate Jiang Taigong, a legendary figure of both man and god in the famous Chinese ancient classics *Apotheosis of Heroes*. With carved beams and painted ridgepoles, the temple is well worth seeing.

In the Zichuan Area, 40 km from Linzi, are the Pu Songling Memorial Hall and the Liao Studio Garden.

Pu Songling was a famous 17th century Chinese writer, and his representative work, *Strange Stories From a Chinese Studio*, enjoys great popularity and respect in Southeast Asia. The former residence of Pu Songling, now the Pu Songling Memorial Hall, was expanded to display his works and memorabilia.

The Liao Studio Garden, a Liao Studio fairyland, was built with an investment of over 20 million yuan raised by the people of the Pu Family village. It includes the Fairy Fox Garden, the Hidden Stone Garden, Willow Spring and the Pu Songling Tomb.

In a scenic spot on Boshan Mountain 20 km from Zichuan lie the Boshan Karst Cave, Dripping Lake and Yanshan State Park.

The Boshan Karst Cave is known as the "Finest Cave in North China" for its dangerous, strange, long and deep features and intertwining, rugged waterfalls, stone pillars, screens and stalagmites.

Dripping Lake is a man-made lake formed by damming a deep valley. With high mountains and luxuriant forests, it sits like a bright mirror inlaid in the mountains.

The main scenic spots in the Yanshan State Forest Park are the Yanling Pagoda, the Green Cloud Lord Palace for Temporary Stopovers, the Remains of the Qi State Great Wall, and Stone Sea. The Yanling Pagoda is an emblem of the Boshan Area. The 54-meter-high Square Pagoda has 12 stories with a rotary restaurant on the top which offers a panoramic view of the beautiful mountain city of Boshan. Legend has it that the Green Cloud Lord Palace for Short Stopovers, built in 1573-1620, was where Green

Cloud Lord of the Taishan Mountain stayed when he made an eastern expedition. With red walls, green tiles and ancient cypresses, it is the largest ancient architectural complex on a high mountain in Zibo. The remains of the Qi State Great Wall are clearly visible, still preserving its magnificence after renovation. Climbing the wall, you can almost picture the spectacle of battle—one man on the wall preventing thousands from passing.

The Stone Sea is formed by a vast natural stretch of fascinating stones. Staying here, nature's mysteries and ferocity come alive. ■

## China's Latest Theme Park

**C**hina's Civilization Theme Park, a large designed site covering 70 hectares, is taking shape nicely.

The park, 40 km from Beijing's South Third Ring Road, is the fifth large theme park in China after Shenzhen's Beautiful Land of China, Folklore Village, Window on the World, and Beijing's World Park. The Civilization Theme Park, however, is unique in its focus on reconstructing China's long-standing civilization with modern techniques. Models and mock-ups in 24 scenic spots display the nation's most important scientific and technological contributions in ancient times. Visitors can see navigator Zheng He's fleet, ancient paper-making, printing, metallurgy, pottery, textile, clocks, seismographs, weights and measures, ancient arithmetic, food culture, and farmland water conservancy.

The site is divided into parks with large open lawns and lush trees, along with many other recreational and catering facilities. The total investment is 360 million yuan.

Following the worldwide tourism boom, theme parks have gained growing popularity. Disneyland in the United States, Japan and France have all become international attractions. In recent years, the rapid eco-

nomic development in Asian countries have brought their people more disposable income. The desire to travel has thus increased concomitantly. Still, for the ordinary Chinese, visiting Disneyland in the United States or touring Miniature Countries in the Hague remains a remote dream. Some clever entrepreneurs thought of building theme parks with rich local features first in their own hometowns.

According to available statistics, from 1985 to 1995, China built over 40 such parks which attract numerous visitors. The Beautiful Land of China and Folklore Village have all recouped their capital outlay in one year, and each receives about 30,000 visitors per day. With a daily ticket topping 1 million yuan, the World Park has recouped its investment in three years.

The Civilization Theme Park surpasses its predecessors both in investment and size. Although there is still a large gap compared to Disneyland in the United States which costed several million US dollars each, it is competitive in scale and cultural flavor. ■

## 40th Anniversary of BCTS

**I**n mid July, the Beijing China Travel Service (BCTS), established in the early years of New China, celebrated its 40th anniversary.

In its first incarnation, the state-owned Beijing China Travel Service was named the Beijing Overseas Chinese Travel Service, serving mainly overseas Chinese who returned to China to sightsee, visit relatives or settle down. In the 1970s, it was renamed the Beijing China Travel Service.

The BCTS has always made quality service its motto. In the past 18 years, it has received 1.13 million domestic and overseas tourists, earning 679 million yuan for the state. By 1995 it had become one of China's top 100 travel agencies with total assets of 51.81 million yuan. ■

## DEC Adjusts Market Strategy

In June this year, Computer China Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of US-based Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC), announced that its personal computer business department would adjust its marketing tactics in line with the special characteristics of China's personal computer (PC) market. DEC is currently in the process of increasing its market share for

medium- to high-grade computers.

All major international PC suppliers in the Chinese market faced fierce competition by the end of 1995.

DEC's strategic adjustments focus on giving full play to the company's technological superiorities. Chen Guangyao, general manager of the Personal Computer Business Department, noted that DEC is renowned for its advanced technology and high-grade commercial products.

According to Chen, DEC, aiming at marketing medium- and high-

grade computers, centers on providing better customer services. Chen believes the adjustment will have still greater appeal for clients.

DEC's current product mix for PC products includes NiNote and Ninote Ultra lap-top computers, Venturis desk computers, Celebris XL enterprise work stations and Prioris service instruments.

DEC has developed an excellent distribution system in China, and currently ranks fourth in terms of sales. ■

## Beijing to Host 15th WPC

Beijing will host the 15th World Petroleum Congress (WPC) between October 12-16, 1997. The WPC, an international organization founded in London in 1933, is supported by 43 full member countries. The principal purpose of the WPC is to promote comprehensive management of the world's petroleum resources for the benefit of mankind. The organization's goals are to foster the application of scientific and technological innovations, and study economic, financial and management issues related to the petroleum industry.

China, one of the world's major oil producing and consuming countries, joined the WPC in 1979. In 1990, the Chinese National Committee (CNC) for the WPC officially announced its desire to host the 15th WPC. Shortly thereafter, member nations voted to grant the CNC authorization to host the congress. The China Organizing Committee was established in 1993 and has since carried out all related responsibilities in preparation for the major event. Wang Tao, president of the China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), serves as chairman of the committee, and Hou Xianglin, senior advisor for the CNPC as vice-chairman.

The theme of the 15th WPC will be "Technology and Globalization —



REN Qing  
Offshore drilling platform in China's Bohai Sea.

Leading the Petroleum Industry Into the 21st Century." All sessions and papers will focus on the consequences and repercussions of envisaged developments, and are expected to form the basis for a better understanding of strategic issues and decision-making in the coming decades. Technical programs will consist of six plenary presentations, 21 forums, 10 reviews and forecast papers, one ministerial panel, one Dewhurst Lecture and 200-300 posters. The covering professions include exploration, production, downstream, natural gas, reserves, environmental protection, business and management, research and transportation.

Major events will include the opening and closing ceremony, China

night, cultural performances, various programs for nonparticipants, a grand farewell party, technical visits and post-congress tours. Participants will have an excellent opportunity to learn more about China's petroleum industry and various other aspects of modern industrial development, as well as the nation's geological complexities and fascinating cultural heritage.

The International Petroleum and Petrochemical Exhibition 1997, the largest of its kind thus far hosted by China, will be held simultaneously in the China International Exhibition Center. An exhibition area covering 4,500 square meters will be available for exhibitors.

by Yang Liping

## China Exports First Rail Engine

The Zhuzhou Electrical Engine Plant in Hunan Province will export 12 high-voltage passenger engines to an Iranian rail company in Tehran in 1997. This marks the first time China will export electrical rail engines.

These engines will be used in a 43-km electrified railway line from Tehran to its satellite town. The total purchase price is US\$23.2 million.

The speed of this railway is 140 km/h, and the engine made by the Zhuzhou plant is capable of pushing the speed up to 187 km/h. The engine, Shaoshan-8, is made completely in China, excepting some of high-tech parts. ■



## 80th Export Fair Scheduled for October

**T**he 80th Chinese Export Commodities Fair (CECF), a regular bi-annual event held in spring and autumn in Guangzhou, will host a large number of business representatives from China and abroad this October.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) and the Guangdong provincial people's government, who sponsor the event, attach high importance to the fair, the largest of its kind in China.

Liu Xiangdong, deputy director of the fair's leading group and MOFTEC's assistant minister, told a recent news conference in Beijing that the fair was inaugurated on April 15, 1957. In the past four decades, participants have witnessed tremendous changes ranging from its scope to influence.

For example, the exhibition floor space expanded to 160,000 square meters from the previous 8,000 square meters. The number of trade groups attending the fair increased from 14 to 45. The assortment for commodities rose from 10,000 to over 100,000 varieties.

The First Chinese Export Commodities Fair in 1957 saw only 2,700 overseas participants, who mainly came from Hong Kong, Macao and Singapore. In 1995, the fair attracted 50,000 visitors from more than 160 countries and regions, with contracts involving US\$18 million. In recent years, the business volume of each fair has exceeded US\$10 billion. Since its inauguration, the accumulated value of export contracts negotiated at the fairs has exceeded US\$190 billion.

In recent years, CECF has increased access to international standardization. The nearly 3,000 domestic enterprises participating in the fair are members of import and

export chambers of commerce enjoying the right to handle foreign trade.

The exhibition halls will be divided into six areas: food, native products and animal by-products; light industrial products and arts and crafts; textiles and clothing; chemicals, metals and mineral products; pharmaceuticals and health-care products; and machinery and electrical items.

Liu noted that the CECF, a centerpiece for international trade activities, provides an important channel for foreign trade and economic exchanges between China and other countries and regions. At present, the volume of transactions yielded by the bi-annual CECF approximates one-fifth of the country's total annual volume of export. The sponsors plan to constantly improve their work in an effort to turn CECF into a first-class international fair with the largest scope and business volume.

by *Li Ning*

## More Foreign Investment in Beijing

**T**he Oriental Plaza, a large foreign-funded construction project in Beijing, has recently been kicked off. Lu Yucheng, deputy mayor of Beijing responsible for foreign trade, said that the city's utilization of foreign capital is developing toward a higher level.

According to Lu, many influential transnational corporations have invested in the city, and a group of key projects is about to start which will lead to more foreign investments. Prior to this, the Beijing semiconductor project, jointly funded by China's Stone Co. and Japan's Mitsubishi and Mitsui companies, started construction, with first-stage investment standing at US\$90 million and total investment expected to reach US\$2 billion.

The Pinggu Power Plant in suburban Beijing has reached a preliminary agreement to cooperate with one of the world's leading power companies. The joint venture's output is expected to reach 1.2 million kw. Many overseas businesses have bid to build Beijing's expressways and other infrastruc-

tures.

According to Deputy Mayor Lu, foreign capital applied in agriculture should focus on the "vegetable basket project", urban ecological improvement, the development of tourism and foreign exchange earnings from export.

Lu said that the horticulture project in suburban Beijing involving US\$27 million in investment has proven to be a great success. In addition, a tract of land covering 1,333 hectares has been leased to a Taiwan business.

Recently Beijing announced the list of the first batch of 64 potential foreign-funded agricultural projects with investments totalling US\$210 million. The parties concerned said that agricultural projects in Beijing, a city with a vast market potential, enjoy a high rate of return and many preferential policies.

In the next five years, Beijing will focus its foreign cooperation in agriculture on importing 10 advanced technologies, including organic farming methods, water conservation facilities, improved livestock and poultry strains, and the utilization of farm waste. In addition, foreign capital will be used to expand the flower industry, and introduce new plant, livestock, bird and aquatic varieties. ■

# Cooperation in Computer Software Development

**T**he China Software Industry Association (CSIA) and the world-famous Intel recently announced that a new generation of multimedia computer software with distinctive Chinese characteristics will soon be available on the market. The software will be manufactured by CSIA and the Intel Software Architecture Development (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. and marketed by the China Electronics Industry Publishing House.

The software will be provided to consumers along with purchases of personal computers, with marketing centering on package sales designed to protect the intellectual property rights.

The new product will be China's first personal computer software package completely compatible with domestically produced processing systems.

Yang Tianxing, director of the Computer Department of the Ministry of Electronics Industry, pointed out that the software marks a new standard in the development of

applied software for China's personal computer industry and will help increase the market competitiveness of domestic personal computer products.

Michael Bruck, general manager of the Intel Software Architecture Development Co. Ltd., said that Intel and the Ministry of Electronics Industry signed a memorandum of understanding on comprehensive cooperation earlier this year, with the aim of comprehensively developing China's computer industry. The two parties have also agreed to grant full support to China's hardware and software manufacturers. The new software is a project proceeded in line with the memorandum.

According to recent reports, China's five major computer manufacturers—the Great Wall Computer Group, the Legend Computer Group, the Langchao Group, the Tontru Computer Group and the Seastar Computer Group—will sell the software with their personal computers based on Pentium processors.

by *Li Ning*

**Computer technicians working for the Hefei Sanyo Washing Machine Co., a Sino-Japanese joint venture.**

LU XUNCHENG



# Beijing Review

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## Joint Action Against Desertification

**T**he Asia-Africa Forum on Desertification was held in Beijing in August. As a joint effort by the Chinese and Japanese governments, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCO) and the UN Special Coordination Committee for African Countries and the Least Developed Countries, the forum was attended by 50-odd representatives from 27 countries and seven international organizations.

Vice-Minister of Forestry Zhu Guangyao noted that the forum hopes to promote collaboration, exchanges, coordination and understanding between Asian and African countries suffering from desertification, and bring their role in combating desertification into full play.

Owing to climatic variation and human interference, some 100 countries with a population of more than 1 billion now suffer the consequences of shifting deserts and increased drought. A total of 1 billion hectares of arid land in Africa and 1.4 billion hectares in Asia represent approximately 34 percent of the world's total desertified land. Annual direct economic losses caused by desertification worldwide have reached US\$42 billion.

In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development included the ambitious campaign to control weak ecosystems, prevent desertification and mitigate the effect of drought into Agenda 21. Since then desertification and drought have been given the same priority among other serious ecological problems to be addressed in the 21st century. In 1994, the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification, the first international convention following the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, was signed.

China, one of the four countries addressing the forum, discussed the

current situation and causes of desertification, offered measures to bring it under control, and put forward future control and prevention measures.

China currently has 330 million hectares of desertified land, resulting



LI SHABAN

**Forum representatives on an inspection tour in Inner Mongolia.**

in direct annual economic losses of US\$6.5 billion. While parts of desertified land have been reclaimed or reseeded successfully, the total desertified areas have been expanding, with an average increase of 2,100 square km annually.

The Chinese government has prioritized efforts to reverse this disturbing ecological trend. Combating desertification has been included in natural economic and social development plans. In 1991, the State Council ratified the Essentials of Planning for the National Combating Desertification Program Between 1991 and 2000. In 1994 the National Ecological Development Plan (1996-2050) was devised, which spelled out overall plans for afforestation, desertification control, water and soil conservation, and grasslands improvement. Initiated in 1991, the National Sand Control Project involves 598 counties (cities and banners) of 27 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities).

Some 20 priority counties and 22 demonstration bases have been set up in various types of desertified areas throughout the country to provide models for combating desertification. In the past years, approximately 4.29 million hectares of desertified land with wind erosion and 17.53 million hectares of desertified land with water erosion have been brought under control. About 11.76 million

hectares of grasslands have been aerically seeded or artificially improved. Roughly 8.33 million hectares of grasslands have been fenced up, and significant progress has been made in grasslands preservation and animal husbandry in the country's 49 key demonstration projects.

During the forum, representatives from various countries travelled to the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to inspect local desertification control projects and visited the Beijing-based China National Research and Development Center on Combating Desertification, the Chinese Training Center and China National Desertification Monitoring Center.

Representatives from Zimbabwe, in particular, found the visiting valuable. They noted that China's methods and techniques are useful models for Africa in tackling their desertification problems. A Bangladesh representative said China has provided various localities with excellent conditions to construct desertification control facilities. He highly commended China's effort to get citizens involved in desertification control, noting this work cannot be effective without massive participation.

The forum offered participants an opportunity to exchange desertification control experiences. Representatives held in-depth discussions on bilateral and multilateral cooperation in such fields as policymaking, scientific research, technological applications and development, public awareness and training and the development of capacity and establishment of relevant organizations. The group also agreed to share information regarding different climatic factors and various efforts for drought control. The forum adopted the Beijing Framework for Action on Asia-Africa Cooperation on Combating Desertification and Mitigating the Effects of Drought, and put forward major and special fields of cooperation, as well as priority projects between Asian and African countries.

by **Feng Jing**

## Symposium on Chinese Language Teaching

The Fifth International Symposium on Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language was held between August 8-12 in Beijing.

The symposium attracted nearly 400 Chinese-language experts and professors from 27 countries and regions, including China, the United States, Japan, France and Germany. The 400 participants included 159 foreign scholars and 43 from Hong Kong and Macao.

Held annually since 1985, the symposium has greatly influenced the Chinese language teaching

worldwide.

Chinese language has the largest population of speakers than any other language in the world. With China's economic development, the Chinese language is gaining greater popularity.

The symposium, the biggest of its kind, will greatly "promote international exchanges and cooperation in Chinese-language teaching," said Lu Bisong, head of the World Society for Chinese Language Teaching.

The Chinese government considered this international symposium especially important. Premier Li

Peng noted in his talks with participants, "People in most countries know China through English and other languages. We hope that more people in the world will learn the Chinese language, so as to know more about China."

Jointly sponsored by the World Society for Chinese Language Teaching, the China Society for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, and the Peking University of Linguistics and Culture, the symposium was supplemented by a book fair, a show of computerized teaching facilities, a demonstration of calligraphy, and Chinese cultural displays.

by **Wang Chen**

## Largest Ancient Chariot Pit Found

Archaeologists from the Zhouyuan Museum in Shaanxi Province recently unearthed the largest Western Zhou Dynasty (1066-771 BC) chariot pit yet discovered in Huangdui Village, Fufeng County of Shaanxi Province.

The discovery provides an important clue for searching Western Zhou imperial tombs which remain unidentified.

Zhouyuan, 130 km northwest of Xian City, capital of Shaanxi Province, served as ancestral shrines and burial site before Zhou toppled the Shang Dynasty (1600-1100 BC). A piece of highland southwest of Huangdui Village holds numerous ancient tombs. Unfortunately, these tombs have frequently been looted since ancient times and were ruined by local farmers' continuous fetching of earth from the highland.

Workers from the Zhouyuan Museum discovered six large and medium-sized tombs, eight chariot pits, and 2,000 pieces of cultural relics during excavations in 1992, 1995, and between April and July this year.

Among the eight excavated chari-

ot pits, the central cavity, which is 7.3 meters long, 5.15 meters wide and 12.6 meters deep, is the largest and deepest. The site dates back to around 2,900 years during the middle or earlier period of the Western Zhou Dynasty.

According to Luo Xizhang, head of the Zhouyuan Museum, this huge funeral pit is special. Over a hundred live male horses were driven into the pit and buried alive. After careful cleaning and sorting, the horses were found scattered in the pit, heads raised defiantly and legs broken. After the horses were covered with earth over 50 cm high, the wheels of more than 20 disassembled painted

carts were placed around the four sides of the pit, while other parts were thrown into the middle of the pit.

Luo said no Western Zhou imperial tomb has been found so far. Experts believe such tombs may be located somewhere near Huangdui Village. The tombs located to the north of the excavated ancestral shrines and palaces are likely to be the burial area for imperial members.

Luo concluded that the overall excavation of the area will help archaeologists delineate the dividing lines between the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties, a project started this year as a key state research project. ■

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**Contact Person:** Soh Chee Beng





## g Jinhua Hotel

Kunming Jinhua Hotel, a four-star joint venture, is administered by the Shanghai Jinjiang Group International Administration Co. Situated in the Kunming Commercial, Trade and Financial Zone, it covers an area of 1.6 hectares and has a building area of 35,600 square meters. It is located in a very advantageous spot where transport facilities are convenient, and is only 10 minutes by car to the airport and railway station.

The hotel consists of a 24-story main building, a seven-story accessory building and three-story side buildings. The complex features complete indoor facilities and a grand, spacious design. Its 321 rooms (suites) are luxurious and elegantly furnished, and completed with closed circuit and satellite TV, multi-channel music programs, IDD telephones and independently controlled air-conditioners. In addition, small bars, a laundry and 24-hour food delivery services are available.

There are Chinese- and Western-style banquet halls, restaurants featuring Cantonese, Huaiyang, Sichuan, Yunnan, Shanghai and other special cuisines, a sightseeing rotary hall, a dance and music restaurant, and a cafe. All these combine to make Jinhua Hotel a relaxing, beautiful respite for busy travellers and businessmen. For the convenience of guests, the hotel also offers commercial and ticket centers well-versed in tourist information and professional needs.

Its excellent stores, hair salon, fitness gym, sauna, disco, billiard room, chess and cards room, karaoke hall, KTV private room, and recreational facilities can meet even the most demanding needs.

Since its trial opening on February 15, 1992, and official opening on August 9, 1993, the hotel has proudly hosted President Mobutu of the Republic of Zaire, Phoun Sipaseuth, deputy prime minister of the Laos, a Malaysian government delegation, delegations from the Japanese Nomura Negotiable Securities Group and the M Group and Chia Tai Group from Thailand, and over 200,000 guests from 50 countries and regions. In 1995, the Jinhua Hotel was cited by the National Tourism Administration as one of China's top 50 star-rated hotels.

The entire Jinhua Hotel staff welcomes domestic and overseas guests.

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**Tel:** 0086-0871-3138888

**Fax:** 0086-0871-3131910, 3138656

**Telex:** 64143 KIWH CN

**Chairman of the Board:** Wang Hongqun

**General Manager:** Xu Yizhang

# Purified Water Improves Shanghai Investment Environment

The water quality in Shanghai has long been a major concern of local residents and foreign investors alike. Concerns over quality have led many large joint ventures to import water from abroad.

Huang Jiying, general manager of the Shanghai Sparkling Drinking Water Co. Ltd., recognized the problem and set about establishing a company to produce bottled water.



Huang Jiying, general manager of the Shanghai Sparkling Drinking Water Co. Ltd.

Huang introduced state-of-the-art technology from the United States, and began offering bottled water which quickly occupied a major share of Shanghai market, especially large companies and white collar workers. Most companies located in Shanghai's high-rise office buildings are familiar with the company's hot line number (58914195).

Huang pointed to quality as the most important aspect of the company's success, and the following factors which have contributed to the high quality of the company's product.

1. State-of-the-art machinery and technology imported from the United States guarantees product quality.
2. The company has established a strict quality control system, which includes 24-hour monitoring of production, hourly sampling and chemical analysis.
3. High-quality services and active participation in public activities have also helped to build the company's reputation.

Consumers, including a large number of foreigners living in Shanghai, have exhibited their preference for the company's bottled water. The product, which is readily available in outlets throughout the city, has been yet another factor helping to improve the city's investment environment.

*Purified Water Purified Water Purified Water*

# 第四届中国北京房地产交易展示会

THE FOURTH CHINA BEIJING REAL ESTATE EXHIBITION

## Time

9 am-2:30 pm, September 25-28, 1996

## Place

No. 1 and No. 2 Exhibition Halls of China World Trade Center  
(No. 1 Jianguomenwai St. Beijing)

## Consultants

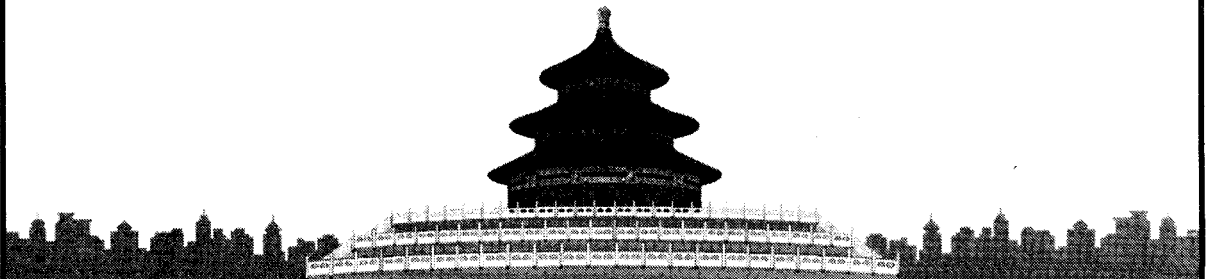
Beijing Municipal Administration Committee  
Real Estate Market Council Under the China Real Estate Association

## Sponsor

Beijing Municipal Housing and Land Administration Bureau

## Subject

- Exhibition sale and leasing of office buildings, apartments, villas, normal residences and various houses for business;
- Transfer of land use rights, talks investment for development projects; real estate trust management and evaluation;
- Information release;
- Real estate policy consultations; and mortgage loans.



Tel: (86-10) 64049839, 64030762 Fax: (86-10) 64030661



Dong Yaping and  
Qiao Hong,  
women's doubles  
in table tennis.



Xiong Ni, men's  
springboard  
diving.

Fu Mingxia (two gold medals), women's  
platform and springboard diving.

Ge Fei and Gu Jun, women's doubles in  
badminton.



Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang, men's  
doubles in table tennis.



Dong Yaping, women's singles  
in table tennis.



Liu Guoliang, men's singles in table tennis.





Miracle Super Miracle Silk Beauty Cream (strong fragrance)



Miracle Super Skin Protection Lotion (light fragrance)



Miracle Super Miracle Beauty Cream (light fragrance)



Miracle Super Miracle Beauty Cream (strong fragrance)



## Miracle Super Cosmetics Series



Miracle Super Miracle Beauty Cream is made with vitamins, skin-moisturizing agents and materials extracted from rare medicinal herbs. With high moistness, this product prevents wrinkles, and persistent use will ensure the skin of users to remain delicate, smooth and elastic. The product won a gold medal at the 38th Eureka World Inventions Fair, and is registered with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Miracle Super Miracle Silk Beauty Cream contains silk peptide extracted from silk, rare medicinal herbs and skin-moisturizing agents. It features high moistness and helps prevent signs of aging. Persistent use will keep the users young with delicate, smooth and elastic skin.

Miracle Super Skin Protection Lotion, consisting of natural mink oil and various amino acids, provides nutritious elements for skin, maintains water and dispels dryness. It helps ease signs of aging and prevents wrinkles.

### Beijing Yamei Cosmetics Factory

Director: Xue Shoudong

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