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GARDEN VIEW

Expo looks toward urban renaissance



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Host of *Fortune* event offers ample opportunities

Cover Photo: Beijing Garden of the Beijing Garden Expo
(SHI GANG)

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EDITOR

Impetus for Development

On May 18, Beijing welcomed the opening of the Ninth China (Beijing) International Garden Exposition, another grand event to showcase the capital's attractions following the Olympic Games in 2008.

Located on the west bank of the Yongding River in southwest Beijing's Fengtai District, the expo offers a new opportunity to boost regional development, with ecological restoration high on the agenda.

The initiative has greatly contributed to the local environment, in particular, redeveloping a 147-hectare landfill into a picturesque landscape for relaxation and entertainment.

In history, the Yongding River is well-known for its early morning lunar views from Lugou Bridge, one of the eight famous scenic spots in ancient Beijing. However, the area suffered much due to ceased river flow and ecological degradation. The dried-up bed eventually became a landfill and a major source of frequent sandstorms.

Now, the river has been restored to its former glory through renovation. Moreover, water quality has reached the required standards set by the Beijing Municipal Government in 2012.

The construction of the expo has also sped up local infrastructure improvement, with newly built subways and highways, beefing up traffic facilities in the southwest of the city.

According to the organizing committee of the expo, the total investment of this project has come to over 10 billion yuan (\$1.63 billion). The region is expected to ultimately transform its development pattern from being heavily reliant on low-end industries to a bustling commercial center and home to innovative technology companies.

The garden expo is further expected to create price ascension of local land assets. Experts predict that the expo might create a new mode of sustainable development.

The expo is not only low-carbon and eco-friendly, but also a platform to collect and display local as well as global historic and cultural heritage. Furthermore, it is expected to attract over 17 million visitors at home and abroad, which means opportunities for investors and exhibitors alike. ■

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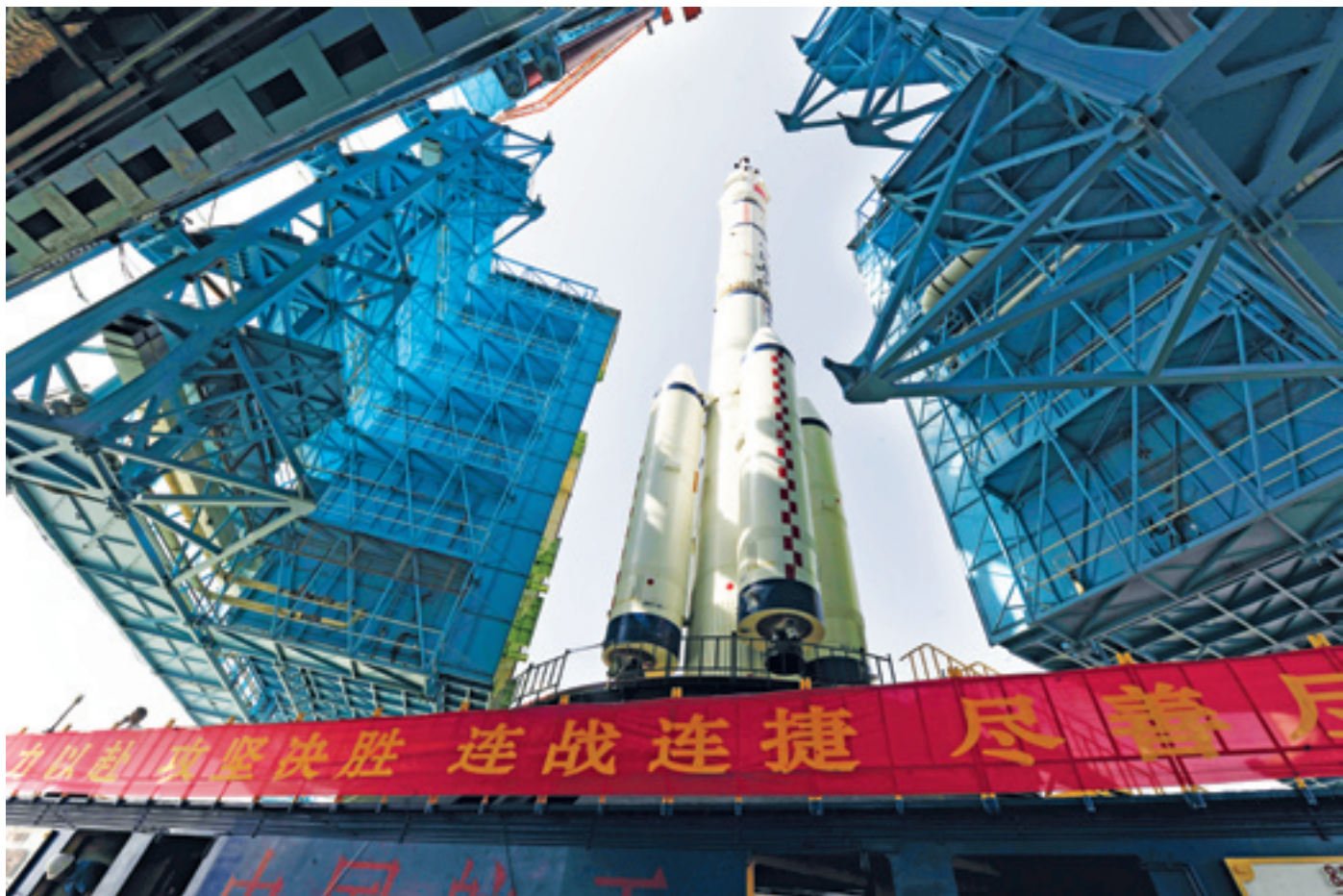
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READY TO GO

The combination of the *Shenzhou 10* spaceship and Long March 2F Yao 10 carrier vehicle is transferred to the launch center on June 3 for the last phase of launch preparations.

According to schedule, it will blast off in mid-June. As with the *Shenzhou 9* mission, the crew might include two male and one female astronauts, destined for the *Tiangong-1* space lab module.

Deadly Fire

Firefighters search for survivors at a burned poultry slaughterhouse in Dehui in northeast China's Jilin Province on June 3.

The fire occurred in the early morning, killing 120 people and injuring 77 others. Investigators are still trying to identify the exact cause of the blast and the fire.

The Chinese Government said on June 5 that a nationwide workplace safety overhaul will begin soon.

The overhaul will target key sectors, such as the coal mining and hazardous chemical industries, as well as labor-intensive enterprises, according to a statement released by the State Council, China's cabinet.



WANG HAOFEI

Plastic Bag Ban

A ban on plastic bags launched five years ago has cut consumption by at least 67 billion bags, saving an equivalent of 6 million tons of petroleum, the National Development and Reform Commission said on May 31.

Since the ban was implemented, use of plastic bags has dropped by more than two thirds, said Li Jing, Deputy Director of the commission's Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Department.

China banned the practice of offering free plastic bags in supermarkets, department stores and grocery stores, as well as prohibited the production and use of plastic bags thinner than 0.025 mm starting from June 1, 2008.

Brain Drain

About 87 percent of professionals regarded as top talent in the science and engineering field have chosen to emigrate out of China, News.cn reported, citing sources with the Office

of Central Talent Work Coordination Group.

A survey released by the Chinese Academy of Sciences shows that many personnel in Chinese science and technology sectors, especially in the fields of physics, mathematics and computer sciences, have served in high positions in world organizations.

Nearly 1 million Chinese overseas students returned to China through the Recruitment Program of Global Experts (1,000 Talent Plan), including 20,000 highly qualified overseas professionals.

The report quotes a senior official with the office as saying that China needs more flexible talent de-

velopment policies and mechanisms to attract more talent coming back.

Reactors Safe

China's 15 operational nuclear power reactors are in safe status, says a government report issued on June 4.

Launched by the Ministry of Environmental Protection as a summary of China's environmental conditions in 2012, the report gave the remarks while elaborating on the country's enhanced efforts regarding nuclear safety and radiation protection.

China has 29 nuclear power reactors under construction, and their construction quality is being well controlled, the report says.

It adds that the country has 19 nuclear reactors that have been built for civil research purposes only, and they are also in good condition.

In October 2012, the ministry publicized a national plan on nuclear security and the prevention and treatment of radioactive contamination for the 2011-15 period and a vision for 2020. The country is aiming to upgrade the security of its nuclear facilities and devices employing



WANG LI



PIANO DUET

Acclaimed Chinese pianist Lang Lang and 9-year-old Zhongxin "Johnson" Li, who has been supported by an international music foundation named after Lang, perform at the Lang Lang and Friends concert in New York City on June 3



ONE MAN'S TREASURE

A Beijing resident displays household items he makes out of discarded refuse on June 5, World Environment Day

nuclear technologies by 2015, according to the plan.

Remote Sensing

Ground stations for a remote-sensing satellite network that covers all of China's territory have been successfully constructed, the Chinese Academy of Sciences announced on June 5.

The network comprises an operation and data processing center, as well as three ground stations in the cities of Beijing, Kashgar in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Sanya in Hainan Province.

The network can receive, transmit, store, process and distribute remote sensing data from satellites to obtain information on all of China's territory.

It will play an important role in land use, disaster monitoring, research on resources and the environment, according to the academy.

Free Insurance

About 80,000 orphans were given free insurance contracts on May 31 to cover the costs of treating 12 critical illnesses, as a joint insurance program supported by the government and a charity organization has expanded.

The latest beneficiaries are from Beijing and Tianjin, as well as Qinghai and Henan provinces.

An insurance fund that was raised through donations will be accessible for one year starting from June 1, according to Hu Haidi, Managing Director of the China Children Insurance Foundation (CCIF).



Differing from previous years, in which funds were mainly raised by large enterprises, Hu said that online micro-donations now account for a greater share of funding and have helped to keep the project sustainable.

The foundation launched the joint program in cooperation with the Ministry of Civil Affairs in 2009 to provide free insurance for the children of poor families and 712,000 orphans under the age of 18 who are registered with the ministry.

To guarantee transparency in the insurance program's operation and management, all donation information can be checked and verified online at Baoxian.cctf.org.cn, a website hosted by the China Children and Teenagers' Fund, the parent foundation of the CCIF.

Expertise Sharing

A program designed to share Chinese wind energy technology with developing countries kicked off on June 4 in northwest China's Gansu Province.

The program is the first of six planned this year as part of efforts to share China's renewable energy development, said Xi Wenhua, Vice Chairman of the China Renewable Energy Society.

Organized by the Gansu Natural Energy Research Institute, the program's launch was attended by 19 officials, business executives and technicians from 11 Asian and African countries, including Sudan, Yemen and Ethiopia.

Lectures on wind energy

technology and field visits will be arranged over the next two months and Chinese specialists will share their experience regarding wind technology design, utilization and maintenance, Xi said.

China is the world's largest producer of wind power in terms of installed capacity.

IT Cooperation

Microsoft has teamed up with southwest China's Yunnan Province to boost software innovation and foster local talent.

The two sides announced the launching of an information technology (IT) academy, an innovation center and the research and development of ethnic minority language software on June 5 in Kunming, capital of Yunnan.

The school will be built by Microsoft and Yunnan University, to offer a four-year college education with a full-time diploma, aimed at training more IT graduates in southwest China.

Microsoft expects its language software to stimulate hi-tech education, turning Yunnan into a new flourishing power in the Chinese software industry.

The software will cover 18 languages including Thai, Hindi and Malay to boost exchange among Chinese and Southeast Asian students who are studying in Yunnan.

Ready for It

Students at No.8 Middle School in Hengyang, central China's Hunan Province line up for a head count at their last class before taking the national college entrance examination.

Some 9.12 million applicants are expected to sit this year's exam on June 7-8, down from 9.15 million in 2012.



Robot Labor

A robot arm welds a panel at a factory in Haining, east China's Zhejiang Province.

Companies in Zhejiang have resorted to the use of robots to mitigate a labor shortage in the region.



WANG DINGCHANG

Dry-Clean Probes

The government initiated anti-dumping probes into perchlorethylene imported from the European Union and the United States on May 31, the Ministry of Commerce said.

The probes were launched in response to applications from domestic companies, the ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

The ministry will examine whether and to what extent such imports have hurt the Chinese industry. The probes are expected to end within a year and can be extended for another six months under special circumstances.

Perchlorethylene is a chlorinated solvent used extensively in

dry cleaning. Other applications include vapor degreasing and use as a chemical intermediate and processing solvent.

Obvious Recovery

China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector rose to 50.8 percent in May from 50.6 percent in April, data from the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) showed.

May marked the eighth consecutive month that the PMI figure stayed above 50 percent, the line demarcating expansion from contraction.

A modest rise in the May PMI and steady sub-indices suggest that the recovery trend in China's economy has become more obvious, said Zhang Liqun, an analyst

from the Development Research Center of the State Council.

According to the CFLP, the sub-index for production moved up from 52.6 percent in April to 53.3 percent in May. The sub-index was a major driver of the May PMI and represents expanding output.

Orders received by manufacturers picked up in May, as the sub-index for new orders edged up 0.1 percentage point from the previous month to 51.8 percent.

The PMI for the non-manufacturing sector stood at 54.3 percent in May, down from 54.5 percent for April, CFLP said.

"The non-manufacturing PMI stood above 54 percent in May, indicating the sector is still growing at a relatively fast pace," said Cai Jin, Vice Chairman of CFLP.

Boeing Delivers 787

A Boeing 787 Dreamliner, the first of its kind to be delivered to China, landed at Baiyun International Airport in Guangzhou on June 2.

The 228-seat aircraft, operated by China Southern Airlines, will help improve the loading capacity on the company's international routes as well as the service quality, said Tan Wangeng, President of China Southern Airlines.

After 25 hours of certification flights to check the craft's airworthiness, it flew between Guangzhou and Beijing on June 6. In the future, it is expected to serve international routes from Guangzhou to Paris, Vancouver, London or Auckland.

With advanced engines and light composite materials, the aircraft is expected to consume 20 percent less fuel and release 20 percent less emissions than conventional models, said Tan.

Agricultural Exports

Two Bulgarian companies and their Chinese counterparts in Sofia on June 3 signed agreements of intent to export local agriculture products involving millions of U.S. dollars.

The Kabakum Group Import Export and China Sinopharm International Corporation decided to export Bulgarian sunflower oil amounting to 1.5 million euros (\$1.95 million), while Vinprom Peshtera SA agreed with Sinochem Plastics Co. Ltd. to sell 500,000 euros worth of wine products to China.

With the help of institutions from the two sides, various Bulgarian food products, mainly including corn and alfalfa, meat, fish, milk and dairy products, have been exported to China, said Diyana Naydenova, Director of Foreign Economic Policy at the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy.

Bilateral trade turnover between China and Bulgaria in 2012 reached \$1.895 billion, 29.4 percent more than the previous year, according to official data.



DU HONGGANG



BUMPER HARVEST

A reaper harvests wheat in Huaxian, northwest China's Shaanxi Province



STREET CAR

A modern trolley debuts at the Eighth China International Rail & Metro Exhibition held in Shanghai on June 4



Joining TPP

China will study the possibility of joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a Ministry of Commerce spokesman said on May 30.

"We will analyze the advantages, disadvantages and the possibility of joining the TPP, based on careful research and according to the principles of equality and mutual benefit," said the ministry's spokesman Shen Danyang.

He made the remarks at a news briefing in response to a question about China's stance in joining the TPP, which is a proposed free trade agreement under negotiation by 12 nations, ranging from the United States and Japan to Mexico, Australia and Viet Nam.

"China also hopes to exchange

information and materials with TPP members on the negotiations," said the spokesman. He said that regional economic diversification should be considered in building the free trade zone, and openness, inclusiveness and transparency should be advocated.

More Accurate Data

China will start a pilot reform of data collection relating to fixed asset investment in 2013, so as to make local economic statistics more reliable, *China Business News* reported.

Statistics showed that the average annual growth rate of fixed asset investment from 2003 to 2011 stood at 21.7 percent, 11 percentage points higher than that of the gross domestic product (GDP).

In 2011, the country's fixed asset

investment totaled 31 trillion yuan (\$5.02 trillion), hitting 65.9 percent of the GDP, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Shen Minggao, Citibank's chief economist for Greater China, queried whether the surging fixed asset investment figures were overstated based on the low investment efficiency.

The data's credibility is also in doubt because of the notable gap between the quantity of construction work regarding the fixed assets and the gross product of the country's construction industry.

In 2011, the work quantity was valued at 19.36 trillion yuan (\$3.12 trillion) while the construction industry realized an output of just 11.71 trillion yuan (\$1.89 trillion), the NBS said.

Numbers

14,000

Number of truck export orders Sinotruk, based in east China's Shandong Province, has clinched in the first five months

\$181 bln

Amount of sales in China's pharmaceutical distribution industry in 2012

202

Number of overseas institutions that had received permission to invest on the mainland under the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors scheme at the end of May

\$1.51 bln

Amount of money ABP Chinese (Holding) plans to invest to build the first ever Asian business port in London

Trade on Water

A Vietnamese peddler poles his raft to sell goods at the Detian Waterfalls scenic spot on the border between China and Viet Nam, in Shuolong Township in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on May 28. Border trade in the first four months of the year in Guangxi has risen to \$3.03 billion, up by 50.8 percent year on year.



THIS WEEK WORLD



PALESTINE

Abdullah al-Najjar stands on the deck of a fishing boat he and his family are constructing in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on June 3. Fishermen in Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2007, suffer from a shortage of fishing boats



JOHN D. HARRIS



SHI YONGCHUAN



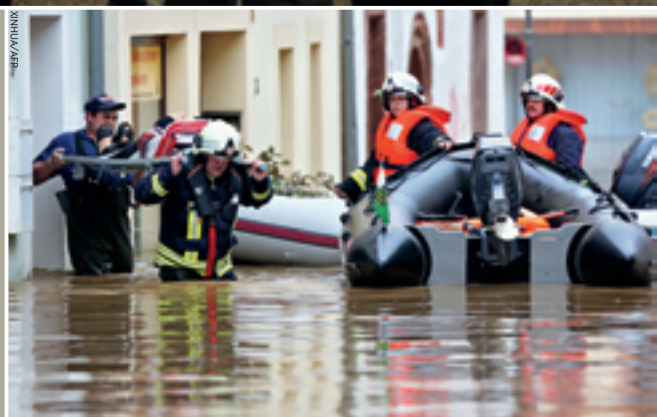
MONGOLIA

Journalists visit Mongolia's first wind farm, Salhitai, in Central Province about 70 km from Ulan Bator, on June 4. The \$100-million facility is expected to start generating electricity in late June



GERMANY

Rescue workers help residents evacuate from their flooded homes in Grimma, eastern Germany, on June 3 after torrential rain and heavy flooding hit central Europe



AP/WIDE WORLD



JORDAN

An employee adds pistachio toppings to cups of ice cream at a Bakdash franchise in Amman on May 29. The Damascus-based store is billed as one of the oldest shops in the world selling Arabian ice cream



SOMALIA

African Union peacekeepers salute at a welcoming ceremony for new UN envoy Nicholas Kay in Mogadishu on June 3. The UN Assistance Mission in Somalia headed by Kay was launched with a mandate to "support state building and peace building"



SOUTH KOREA

Activists stage mock attacks against cigarette-shaped mascots during an event marking the World No Tobacco Day in Seoul on May 31

“A huge number of Chinese computers, Chinese companies and Chinese government agencies have also been attacked by hackers. Maybe some of them, or even most of them, would come from the United States. But we are not in the position to come to the conclusion that these attacks are sponsored or supported by the U.S. Government. This is not a very responsible way of making such claims.”

China's Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai in an interview with *Foreign Affairs* on accusations that the Chinese Government is behind cyberattacks of U.S. commercial and military computers



“The regulation is ridiculous. What if a woman chooses to have a test tube baby without getting married? Should she also be fined?”

Wang Qiong, a professor at Wuhan University, in response to a draft regulation released by the legislative affairs office of Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, on May 31, which imposes financial penalties on unmarried mothers



“Between ages 4 and 9, children should be given sex safety education and basic sexual physiology education. After 10, children should be taught how to deal with the opposite sex.”

Peng Xiaohui, sexology professor with Central China Normal University, on May 31. Frequent sexual assault cases against children have made such education necessary and urgent



“In my experience, few dogs or cats are aggressive unless humans provoke them first.”

Zhao Jing, a devoted volunteer with Eryi Pet Yard, an animal shelter in Tianjin, on May 25. The city's animal welfare organizations held the Fourth Homeless Animals Adoption Day on the date, aiming to help stray animals and find homes for them



FROM SCIENTIST TO COMEDIAN



Joe Wong, a Chinese American stand-up comedian, will return to China to develop his career. He has appeared in several shows of China Central Television as guest host over the past two years and published his Chinese autobiography in 2011.

Born in 1970, Wong studied at Jilin University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences before starting to study biochemistry at Rice University in Texas in 1994. He subsequently received his doctorate in 1999.

Wong moved to Boston in 2001 and began performing comedy at All Asia Bar and Stash's Comedy Jam. He attracted nationwide attention after his appearance on Late Show with David Letterman in 2009. On St. Patrick's Day in 2010, he headlined the annual dinner hosted by Radio and Television Correspondents' Association.



YOUNG SUCCESSOR



Liu Chang, the only daughter of Liu Yonghao, Board Chairman of New Hope Group, a leading Chinese agribusiness company in China, was elected chairman of subsidiary New Hope Liuhe Co. Ltd. on May 22.

Born in 1980, Liu Chang attended university in the United States in 1996 and returned to China after receiving an MBA in 2002. She has worked in various positions for the group since while developing her management ability.

Last year, New Hope Group recorded sales revenue of more than 80 billion yuan (\$12.7 billion) and it is expected the figure will increase by 10 percent this year.



An Alternative Option

Lifeweek
June 3

2009, 840,000 students followed this route, while the number came close to 1 million in 2010. About 21.1 percent of these students went to study at foreign universities.

In addition, more children are going abroad to attend high schools. In the 2005-06 school year, the number of Chinese students going to attend U.S. high schools was only 65. However, it reached 6,725 in the 2010-11 period, a 100-time increase in five years.

In the past, Chinese youth would go abroad to further their studies after graduating from university. However, parents are now sending their children abroad to attend high school or even middle school to avoid dilemmas faced by Chinese education.

By sending their children abroad, parents

hope to free their kids from exam-oriented education and fully develop their aptitudes. They are also saved the trouble of getting their children into better-performing schools. The price they pay is only half that of an apartment in a first-tier city.

However, this path involves many uncertainties. On the one hand, more students are attending international classes or schools, making competition for foreign universities increasingly fierce. On the other hand, it's a huge challenge for a teenager to live abroad independently considering they have to learn a new language, overcome cultural barriers and take care of themselves.

What's more, compared with those educated at local universities, overseas students' competitive edge in the domestic job market is decreasing. Parents have to consider whether studying abroad suits their children when making such a decision.

Behind the Grain Base Fire

Changjiang Daily
June 4

The public still doubts the reasons behind the fire on May 31 that burned down a grain barn in Lindian County, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, operated by China Grain Reserves Corp. (Sinograin). A Central Government inspection report blamed the incident on a short-circuited distribution box.

The cause has been put down to improper management. The grain was stored openly without fire protection, as the barn was already overstocked.

Sinograin normally requests fire checks at least once a month for key areas, alongside 50 percent spot-checks for other areas. However, whether this rule was strictly followed remains unclear.

The incident has also raised concerns about corruption, with some suspecting the fire to be the result of arson, aimed at covering up crimes committed by corrupt local officials.

Though lacking evidence, suspicions have been fueled by previous scandals of the company concerning scalping and defalcation.

To meet public expectations, management will need to be improved.

Tax on Luxury Cars

Yanzhao Evening News
June 4

A rumor stating the government would levy a tax on luxury car purchases was recently confirmed by Luo Lei, Deputy Secretary General of

China Automobile Dealers Association. China is slated to impose a luxury tax of 20 percent on cars priced over 1.7 million yuan (\$277,440), excluding value-added tax, starting on June 1.

Such a move is common around the globe and, as the world's largest consumer of luxury items, China should operate in line with international practice.

Many people still fail to understand the driving force of domestic consumption behind the national economy. Some government depart-

ments despise homemade goods. The rich are additionally wild on purchasing imported luxury cars to demonstrate their success. To levy a tax on luxury car purchases will not affect the living standards of medium- or low-income groups.

Besides, the policy will prevent excessive consumption of luxury brands.

Currently, with many private company owners purchasing luxury items such as airplanes and yachts to evade tax, the government should strengthen its collection efforts and administration.

Saving Rice

Caixin
May 27

Rice produced in south China's Hunan Province has attracted public attention in recent months due to an excessive amount of cadmium.

Cadmium is a heavy metal harmful to the human body.

For many years, south China's Guangdong Province has been the main consumer of Hunan rice. On May 22, Guangdong Food Safety Office announced that 31 batches of rice sold in the province contained an excessive amount of cadmium, among which 14 came from Hunan.

During China's fast industrialization, mining has released poisonous materials such as cadmium into nature, polluting a large area of soil through rivers and air, thereby contaminating the rice.

According to a sample survey, around 10 percent of Chinese rice carries an excessive amount of cadmium.

Over two months since the problem with Hunan rice was revealed, rice farmers and dealers have suffered a huge blow. The area's rice has failed to sell in many places.

In Lanximi of Hunan, at least 70 percent of rice producing factories have suspended or half suspended production. Many rice farmers told *Caixin* reporter that if their rice does to sell, they might consider turning from double to single cropping rice, or even stopping cultivation altogether.

The Hunan Provincial Government has still made no public response to multiple inquiries.





COVER STORY

LAND REHAB

Beijing Garden Expo presents a combination of traditional beauty and enlightened urban development By Bai Shi



A PLACE FOR FUN: Visitors cross a footbridge in the Fujian Garden on June 2

A sprawling megapark complex featuring myriad gardening exhibits, artificial wetlands, advanced landscaping and diverse architectural works is set to breathe new life into a forgotten corner of the Chinese capital.

Hosted by China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and Beijing Municipal Government, the Ninth China (Beijing) International Garden Exposition covers a total area of 513 hectares and consists of 128 themed gardens as well as many

integrated architectural and landscaping elements.

The coastal city of Dalian in Liaoning Province hosted the inaugural event in 1997. This year's expo began on May 18.

The fittingly named Beijing Garden Expo Park was built specifically for the event and chosen for its location along the Yongding River on the undeveloped southwestern outskirts of the capital.

The park has already received 500,000 visitors as of June 3. Qiang Jian, expo organizer

and Deputy Director of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscape and Forestry, expects that number to grow to 10 million before the expo concludes on November 18.

Rebirth of barren land

Fengtai District, a relatively undeveloped area outside the urban core, was chosen as the site for the Garden Expo Park due to a strategic urban development plan set forth by the Beijing Municipal Government in 2009, says Ji Yan, the district mayor.

He says Beijing is an international city, but its development is not balanced. The southern region of Beijing has lagged behind the rest of the capital for a long time.

The capital has been taking measures to develop its southern region since 2010, which has transformed the area from being heavily reliant on low-end industries such as cement factories and coal mines, into a bustling commercial center and home to innovative technology companies.

The establishment of the expo is part of these efforts. The Beijing Garden Expo might become a new mode of investment in the capital.

In 2010, the southern region of Beijing received a huge investment of 290 billion yuan (\$47.3 billion) as part of a three-year urban development project. The garden expo is regarded as the centerpiece of the development plan, says Ji.

Previously, the local government did not place environmental protection high on its agenda of urbanization and industrialization. Ji believes the time is right to rectify unsustainable development patterns.

In 1997, authorities classified the Yongding River as unsuitable for use as a drinking water source. Excessive use of fertilizers and industrial waste rendered it barely useful for irrigation purposes, although factory closures and agricultural management improved water quality slightly in the 2000s.

Moreover, a 140-hectare landfill on the west bank of the river rendered the area unattractive as a residential neighborhood.

The three-year development plan transformed the area formerly occupied by the landfill with a picturesque Splendid Valley. Landscapers sealed the area to prevent seepage of waste materials and planted vegetation.

Ji emphasized the importance of new opportunities to boost continued development of southwestern Beijing.

Even transportation to the expo park has been improved. A new subway line connected the park and the Yongding River area to the city's main subway loop on May 5, and 24.2 km of new roads have been built, according to Gu Xiaoyuan, publicity director of the expo.

Yue Shulan, 43, a former resident of Changxindian Town, witnessed the transformation of her dilapidated village into a massive expo park complex.

"The road near my home was narrow and bumpy. In only a year, it has been turned into an eight-lane highway," Yue said excitedly. She and fellow villagers were relocated to new homes during the construction process.

Wang Fenghua, the spokesperson of Changxindian Town, said, "Over the past three years, all 5,300 villagers have moved to new apartments allocated by the local government as part of compensation for land acquisition by the expo."

Integrating the construction of the expo with renovation of undeveloped areas represents a great stride in improving the livelihood of local people.

Besides, the garden expo is built to be a permanent themed park, which will become a

new pillar for local tourism and create more job opportunities for local residents.

Yue now works as a park custodian and earns a monthly salary of 2,000 yuan (\$326). She expressed satisfaction with her new job. "I once worked downtown as a nanny and maid. Though I earned more before, I had to spend almost two hours on the commute from my home to downtown at that time. Now my workplace in the garden expo is a very convenient 10-minute walk from home."

Like Yue, more than 100 people in her village have been employed by the expo as security staff and gardeners.

In addition to offering job opportunities, the local government helps relocated residents to earn revenue from the land they

NEO TOWER: Yongding Pogoda is a modernized replica of a classical wooden architecture



gave up as shareholders of commercial developments.

A garden of gardens

As a country with many people and little arable land, China's gardens traditionally incorporate aspects of architecture and landscaping in a holistic manner, representing the wisdom of living in harmony with the environment and the dialectic balance between artifice and wilderness.

Five main gardens correspond to five representative cultural regions of China: Beijing, Chongqing, Fujian, Jiangsu and Guangdong.

The Beijing Garden reflects the majesty and grand atmosphere of the imperial capital in dynastic times. Located at the edge of the Splendid Valley, a two-storey edifice accentu-



DRAWING FUTURE: Children paint colorful landscapes in the Beijing Garden Expo on June 1, International Children's Day

ates the display in royal colors reminiscent of the Forbidden City and Summer Palace.

Jiangsu Province is home to the famed gardens of Suzhou, often described as a paradise on Earth for its unparalleled beauty and magnificent architecture. Distinct from the grand royal gardens in north China, Suzhou's were private property, embodying the unique characteristics and aesthetic needs of their owners.

One exhibit transcends gardening in quite a different way: The Chengdu Garden features two giant pandas visiting from Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. Young pandas Qiqi and Zhizhi were both born in 2009.

Panda breeder Zhang Hao, 28, told *Beijing Review*, "Pandas are beloved for their cute and peaceful nature. We carried two pandas from remote Chengdu to Beijing, expecting to show the most charming creature from Sichuan and promote the idea of animal protection through the expo."

These two pandas have lived at their new home in the expo for almost half a month.

"Visitors are always excited when they see pandas. In order to avoid overstimulating [the pandas], we have to limit daily visitors," he said.

Giant pandas are endangered wildlife. In recent years, Chinese scientists have made progress in artificial breeding of pandas. "Our ul-

timate goal is to return all pandas to the natural world and sustain their population in the wild," Zhang said.

In addition to panda-related information, the Chengdu Garden displays other pictures and knowledge of rare animals and plants in Sichuan Province, aiming to enlighten people to the path of ecological conservation, Zhang added.

Three landmarks feature prominently in the overall layout of the park: the Museum of Chinese Gardens, Main Pavilion and Yongding Pagoda.

The museum is the country's first national-level of gardening. According to organizers, it has collected 4,000 items through donations, auctions and purchases, aiming at the stewardship of traditional Chinese culture and research of innovations in modern gardening and park management.

"Tourists can get a general and in-depth understanding of Chinese classical gardens, modern gardens and afforestation skills," Qiang said.

The Main Pavilion resembles a China rose when it is viewed from above. It is the main venue for holding meetings, seminars and other events during the expo.

The Yongding Pagoda is the tallest land- ►►



Nanchang Garden



Splendid Valley



Arabian Garden

Myanmar Garden





WANG XIAOYANG



Ancient Residence Cultural Zone

WANG XIAOYANG



Expo's Grand Gate



WANG XIAOYANG



Zhengzhou Garden

mark, a modern replica of traditional wooden tower architecture with a spectacular view from the top.

Green highlights

Landscaping is a voracious consumer of water resources. To sustain the vast garden expo complex, organizers racked their brains to design eco-friendly water supply and irrigation systems.

"From the very beginning, the expo is designed to be sustainable and eco-friendly," Qiang said.

According to Qiang, the garden expo adopts many new material and ecological technologies to save energy and water resources and reduce carbon emissions, such as solar-powered street lamps and wind turbine generator system as well as a water recycling system.

"The expo mainly relies on 120 million cubic meters of reclaimed water supplied by two treatment plants," said hydraulic engineer Liu Xueyuan of the Beijing Institute of Water Planning and Design (BIWPD), regarding the park's yearly water consumption. Runoff contributes another 2 million cubic meters for irrigation, and the Guanting Reservoir in north Beijing can supply another 10 million or 30 million cubic meters for back up.

Guanting Reservoir and the Yongding River no longer supply drinking water to the capital, as there are many pollutants in the source, but efforts are being made to meet standards for irrigation purposes.

"If we use machines to process and purify the water, the cost is too high," Liu said.



UMBRELLA CORRIDOR: Visitors stroll beneath paper umbrellas in the Taiwan Garden on May 25

Engineers designed an artificial wetland to process water for the expo.

"Hydrogen nitride and nitrogen are the primary pollutants. We planted a lot of aquatic plants and laid eco-friendly filter materials at the bottom of the Yuanbo Lake," said Wei Wei, a water recycling engineer of the BIWPD.

"The technology that we use to create the wetland is the same used to build the artificial lake in Beijing Olympic Park built in 2008. This eco-technology has been proven sustainable

over the past five years," Wei said.

Wei said that an "intelligent irrigation control center" conserves water consumed by the expo park.

"I come here to visit the Beijing Garden Expo because its eco-technology appeals to me," said Liu Bin, a student at Beijing Forestry University.

A gardener at the expo explained to him that the lawns and flower gardens are installed with shower nozzles. The irrigation system is integrated within an automatic control center which collects real-time weather, temperature and humidity data and coordinates efficient irrigation throughout the park.

Qiang cited estimates by environmental experts that vegetation at the garden expo could absorb 100,000 tons of smog particles, and 246 hectares of artificial wetland can process 80,000 cubic meters of recycled water a day.

Altogether, water management and park maintenance not only show potential to improve water quality, but also block winds to reduce dust particles in the air and diminish the dramatic temperature difference between day and night in the arid climate.

Some of the themed gardens also exhibit green technology. Wuhan Garden, for example, focuses on carbon emission reduction and sustainable architecture. The roof of its pavilion is covered with grass, reducing the indoor temperature in summer. The moat is equipped with an energy-saving water recycling system.

In the Taiwan Garden, volunteers distribute reusable water bottles to visitors. Lee Ying-ying, a volunteer from National Quemoy University of Kinmen Island, said, "Unlike other disposable beverage bottles, our plastic bottles can be reused many times."

"Visitors consume a large quantity of bottled water every day during the expo and end up disposing of numerous bottles. In order to reduce the environmental burden, we suggest visitors use bottles made from other materials or reusable plastic bottles like ours," Li said. ■

Garden Expo in the Numbers

- Beijing Garden Expo covers an area of **513** hectares in total, including the **246**-hectare Yuanbo Lake and a land area of **267** hectares.
- **128** themed garden exhibits
- **200 million** yuan (\$32 million) of investment in **46** gardens built by Chinese cities
- **69** Chinese cities and **37** overseas cities from **29** other countries around the world showcase their gardens at the expo
- **13,000** volunteers serving the expo, selected from over **50,000** applicants

COVER STORY

AFRICAN PAVILIONS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Beijing Garden Expo's International Exhibition Area still developing

By Katherine Damer

The Beijing Garden Expo is flourishing, attracting between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors a day, translating into 3 million yuan (\$489,300) to 4 million yuan (\$652,400) in entrance fees every day. While most of these attendees are drawn to the large gardens representing various Chinese cities and provinces, one corner of the expo offers savvy visitors a chance to see some more international sights. With pavilions from European, South American, Asian and African countries, the Expo's International Exhibition Park, located between the Expo's first and second gates, adds some multicultural variety to the expo.

Unfortunately, the complimentary buses that run between the garden expo gates and the nearest subway stop (Garden Expo Park on Line 14) shuttle visitors away from this area. As a result, the number of expo attendees visiting the International Exhibition Park has remained low. Magdi Shanouda, who runs the Sudanese Pavilion, is troubled by the low levels of foot traffic, "They say there are over 30,000 visitors a day, but I haven't even seen 5,000 people pass by here today."

One possible solution suggested by the staff of both the Ethiopian and Cameroonian pavilions, which are also struggling to drum up more business, is an increase in advertising and more support from expo management. At present, expo maps do not list or identify separate pavilions in the International Exhibition Park, and visitors have no way to find specific pavilions without simply exploring on their own. The expo's shuttles also have no direct access to the International Exhibition Park. Currently, shuttle drivers can only bring visitors to the edge of the area, out of sight of any of the pavilions.



COFFEE TIME: Visitors can sample Ethiopian coffee when they visit the Ethiopian Pavilion of the Beijing Garden Expo

Slow sales are a serious problem for the entrepreneurs and managers running these pavilions. Positive experiences and strong sales at similar events, such as the Shanghai World Expo, encouraged the businesses funding these pavilions to invest tens of thousands of U.S. dollars into the construction of the pavilions, which must now be recouped through sales profits.

Slow sales due to a low level of exposure to potential customers is not the only problem plaguing these pavilions. Mohamed Elmorshdy, manager of the Egyptian Pavilion, has displays of clothing, jewelry, statuettes, and Egyptian art in his country's pavilion. But the majority of his merchandise and pavilion decorations are still being processed by customs, further limiting sales at his pavilion. He fears that it may take months to get access to his goods, and that

customs fees will end up adding significantly to his business expenses.

The Ethiopian Pavilion, funded and run by Ruian Best, an international trading company with offices in Hangzhou of Zhejiang Province, is also waiting for some merchandise to pass through customs, but is already well stocked with jewelry, art, handcrafted items, Ethiopian coffee and coffee cups and pots. Visitors to the pavilion can even sample Ethiopian coffee at the pavilion, where the staff brew and serve it according to Ethiopian traditions. Despite this extra attraction, business at the pavilion has been slow during the work week, with sales picking up slightly on weekends.

Ide Nkameni, who manages the Cameroonian Pavilion, is facing similar difficulties. Her pavilion is filled with clothing, jewelry, traditional masks, carvings, and other handicrafts. But she is struggling to get visas for employees from Cameroon who she hired to help introduce Cameroonian culture and explain the cultural significance of her merchandise to expo visitors.

Despite the logistical and bureaucratic difficulties plaguing her Pavilion, Nkameni, who ran a similar operation at the Shanghai World Expo and has years of experience doing business in China, is confident that business will pick up as the expo continues and access to the International Exhibition Park is made easier.

Other African pavilion managers expressed similar optimism. Their past experiences working at other international expos in China set a high bar for the Beijing Garden Expo. But the African pavilions' staff are confident that as the Expo continues, and as its management finds time to address their concerns, their investments will begin paying off. ■



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