Chinese Heritage Foundation holds 8th Annual Open House

By Shilyn Chang, Staff Writer

The Chinese Heritage Foundation (CHF) held its eighth annual open house last month. Its abundant guest list and numerous honorees reflected just how much the foundation and its members have flourished and contributed to the Chinese community in Minnesota since its start in 2004. The gathering was a tribute to CHF’s dedication to encouraging the growth of Chinese education and culture. Several speakers from institutions around the metro area highlighted the contributions of the foundation, and how those contributions had facilitated various Chinese events in the Twin Cities.

The Minnesota Chinese Dance Theatre celebrated its 20th anniversary this year with an impressive turnout and wonderful reviews. For the anniversary concert in early June of this year, the four masters of Chinese dance who led workshops open to the public were able to invite four master artists of Chinese dance from institutions around the metro area. The performance also included the participation of two famous Chinese singers. Overall, the concert was a great success with an impressive turnout and wonderful reviews. The Stages Theatre Company in Hopkins received a grant from the CHF towards the world premiere of an adaptation of “Where the Mountain Meets the Moon,” a Newbery Honor book by author Grace Lin. The tale blends fantasy and Chinese folklore to create a story that is reminiscent of the classic “The Wizard of Oz,” reflecting the blend of Chinese and Western cultures. The performance featured the young and talented performer Andrew Moy, who has participated in productions at the Guthrie Theater, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Mixed Blood Theatre and has even performed as a magician in the popular “A Passage to China” cultural event. With the grant provided by the foundation, the company was able to meet production expenses and reach out to the community with this culturally enlightening and enchanting performance.

CHF Open House continues on Page 10

China’s Minister of Health, Chen Zhu, honored at the University of Minnesota

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

China’s Health Minister, Dr. Chen Zhu, recently paid a busy three-day visit to Minnesota during which he received an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Minnesota for his contribution to leukemia treatment through research. Minister Chen was accompanied by his wife Dr. Chen Saijuan who is also a renowned hematologist and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. During his brief visit he met with the president of the University of Minnesota and faculties of the Medical School, Masonic Cancer Center, School of Public Health and College of Science and Engineering. The Association of Minnesota Chinese Physicians (AMCP) along with the China Center also hosted a number of activities.

Minister Chen is a renowned scientist who has conducted groundbreaking research into the treatment of leukemia. He was the first to use the synergistic cancer targeting therapy and he developed the first successful model in the treatment of acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL). His work on APL turned this once fatal form of cancer into a curable disease. He has brought this passion into his work as Minister of Health, pledging to bring universal coverage to all children facing catastrophic illness in China.

Over the last three years, China has worked to transform healthcare by incorporating nearly universal coverage of basic health insurance, expanding coverage for essential drugs and increasing access to basic public health services.

As the United States wrestles with its own questions about the future of health care reform, the man many credit with pushing China’s health system forward came to the University of Minnesota to discuss how China has made such progress, and how other countries can benefit from lessons China learned along the way.

Upon his arrival Minister Chen quickly settled into his hotel and attended a welcome dinner at the Tea House restaurant on University Avenue. The following day Minister Chen and his group toured the Twin Cities and enjoyed a Lake Minnetonka cruise with Chinese physicians hosted by US-China Healthcare Information Exchange (USCHIE) and AMCP. Later that day, they attended a meeting with health care industry executives. Concluding the day of social activities was a dinner and CHFFF board with Honorary Chinese Minnesotan of Note, Patricia Puffer (seated) fusion dance. For the anniversary concert early June of this year, the four masters choreographed special dances for the theater members and attendees of the workshops. The performance also included the participation of two famous Chinese singers. Overall, the concert was a great success with an impressive turnout and wonderful reviews.

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CHF Open House continues on Page 10
Island dispute between China and Japan fosters nationalism in both countries

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

As has been reported in the news, there is a controversy over a chain of uninhabited islands that is being claimed by China, Japan and the Republic of China (Taiwan). These islands are reputed to have vast oil deposits and are surrounded by rich fishing grounds.

But the islands, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, have a long history of straining relations and inspiring nationalist resentment between the two Asian neighbors, long before the issue of oil resources in the area came up.

China says the islands have been considered part of its territory since the 14th century, when it says they first appeared on Chinese maps during the Ming Dynasty. Beijing says Chinese fishermen have used the islands since ancient times.

But Japan disputes that claim, saying it discovered the islands in 1884. After determining the islands were uninhabited, Japan annexed them in 1895 after winning the First Sino-Japanese War. China objects, saying it was forced to sign the post-war treaty that annexed them in 1895 after winning the First Sino-Japanese War.

The territory is close to key shipping lanes, and there may be oil reserves in the area. “Japan argues that it surveyed the islands in the late 19th century and found them to be Terra nullius (Latin: land belonging to no one); subsequently China acquiesced to Japanese sovereignty until the 1970s. The PRC and the ROC argue that documentary evidence prior to the First Sino-Japanese War indicates Chinese possession and that the territory is accordingly a Japanese seizure that should be returned as the rest of Imperial Japan’s conquests were returned in 1945.”

Although the United States does not have an official position on the merits of the competing sovereignty claims, the islands are included within the U.S. Japan Security Treaty. The question of a defense of the islands by Japan may complicate support from the United States military.

“In September 11, 2012, the Japanese government purchased the remaining three of the disputed islands that it did not already own from their private owner, prompting large-scale protests in China.”

Go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku_Islands_dispute for the complete article that is maintained by the Wikipedia website according to its standards.

For a more thorough discussion of this dispute, we suggest you view a video at the China Insight website at www.chinainsight.info.
WASHINGTON—Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced the designation of Taiwan into the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)—streamlining travel for thousands of eligible Taiwan passport holders, while maintaining strong security standards [on Oct. 2, 2012].

“Today’s announcement is a major step forward in our long-standing economic partnership with Taiwan,” said Secretary Napolitano. “Taiwan’s participation in the VWP will not only stimulate tourism in the United States, it will also enable us to work together to maintain the strictest security standards.”

Taiwan will join 36 participants in the VWP—which permits visa-free travel to the United States for eligible travelers visiting the United States for 90 days or fewer for business or tourism. In Fiscal Year 2011, the VWP accounted for 18.3 million visits to the United States, or more than 60 percent of tourist and business travelers entering the United States by air. In accordance with the VWP designation process, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determined that Taiwan complies with key security and information-sharing requirements—such as enhanced law enforcement and security-related data sharing with the United States; timely reporting of lost and stolen passports; and the maintenance of high counterterrorism, law enforcement, border control, aviation and document security standards.

Like other VWP travelers, eligible Taiwan passport holders will be required to apply for advanced authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), a DHS Web-based system. Eligible Taiwan passport holders with an approved ESTA will be able to visit the United States without visas as of November 1, 2012. [The] announcement supports President Obama’s Executive Order on travel and tourism, directing federal agencies to expand the nation’s ability to attract and welcome visitors, while maintaining the highest standards of security. In Fiscal Year 2011, 243,186 visitors from Taiwan traveled to the United States.

For more information, visit www.dhs.gov or https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta.
**CHARACTER STUDY**

How does one say “Merry Christmas” in Chinese?

By Jodi Yim James, Staff Writer

Merry Christmas is shèng dàn kuài lè (圣诞快乐) in Chinese. For Christians who believe Jesus is sacred or holy, it is also short for shèng ren, a sage or a saint.

So, shèng dàn kuài lè, Holy Birth Happy, is how you say and write Merry Christmas in Chinese. For Christians who believe Jesus is more than a saint, there is another common phrase for Merry Christmas in Chinese: Ye dàn kuài lè (耶诞快乐). Ye is short for Ye Su 耶稣, which is the transliterated name for Jesus. The character ye (pronounced in the first tone as in the transliteration of Jesus) does not have a special meaning. It is a character used to imitate a sound, often used for transliteration of foreign names. In old Chinese literature, ye (pronounced in the second tone) is the same as father or used to indicate a question (old Chinese writing has no punctuation marks).

Su 耶 means to revive, to come to, or to rise again. Just like people speak English with different accents in different parts of America, most Chinese don’t speak 100% Beijing Mandarin. Their speech has a hint of their local accents. Many Chinese pronounce Ye Su as Ye2 Su1. In that pronunciation, the name Ye Su not only sounds close to the Latin pronunciation of Jesus, but also has a great meaning: Father who has risen again.

Here are more vocabulary words for the holidays, including Happy Thanksgiving.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pin Yin</th>
<th>Hanzi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>shèng dàn jié</td>
<td>圣诞节</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas eve</td>
<td>yè dàn jié</td>
<td>耶诞节</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas eve</td>
<td>shèng dàn yè</td>
<td>圣诞夜</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merry Christmas</td>
<td>ping ān yè</td>
<td>平安夜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas tree</td>
<td>shèng dàn kuài lè</td>
<td>圣诞快乐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candy Cane</td>
<td>shèng dàn shù</td>
<td>圣诞树</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas presents</td>
<td>guài zhāng tāng</td>
<td>拐杖糖</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stocking</td>
<td>shèng dàn wù</td>
<td>圣诞礼物</td>
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<td>Poinsetta</td>
<td>shèng dàn hóng</td>
<td>圣诞袜</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas card</td>
<td>shèng dàn kǎ</td>
<td>圣诞帽</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Claus</td>
<td>shèng dàn lǎo rén</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleigh</td>
<td>xuě qiāo</td>
<td>雪橇</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reindeer</td>
<td>mǐ lù</td>
<td>麋鹿</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas carol</td>
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<td>圣诞歌</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel</td>
<td>tān shī</td>
<td>天使</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowman</td>
<td>xuě rén</td>
<td>雪人</td>
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<tr>
<td>Happy Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Gān ēn jíe kuài lè</td>
<td>感恩节快乐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Get a glimpse into the life and legacy of China’s First Emperor and see more than 120 rare objects—including 8 terra-cotta tomb warriors and 2 horses—and other amazing artifacts from this extraordinary archaeological excavation.*

A once-in-a-lifetime experience, this exhibition takes visitors on a journey from the birth and rise of the Qin Empire to the life and rule of the First Emperor, his quest for immortality, and his death, burial, and legacy. This is a rare opportunity to view treasures from one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of our time, drawn from more than 13 institutions in China, including the Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses, the Shaanxi Provincial Archaeological Institute, and the Shaanxi History Museum. A presentation of objects, including bronze ritual and jade artifacts, gold and silver ornaments, and palatial architectural components, illustrates the emergence of the Qin State more than 2,000 years ago.

The MIA was among the first museums outside China to feature some of these figures in a small display held in 1985. A quarter-century later, Chinese archaeologists are still tiring away at the burial mound of one of the most remarkable figures in the history of China, the First Emperor. Don’t miss your chance to learn more about this extraordinarily influential man.

*born in a time of turmoil in China’s history, known as the Warring States period (475-221 BCE), Qin Shihuang, or First Emperor, founded the short-lived Qin dynasty (221-206 BCE). He forged the seven warring states into one nation, and his legacy of a centralized bureaucratic state would be carried on to successive dynasties over the next two millennia.*

Driven by an eagerness for immortality, the First Emperor began to plan his burial from the moment he ascended the throne at age 13. The complex plan and symbolic content of the mausoleum, as gradually revealed by the ongoing archaeological excavations, are far beyond anyone’s imagination.

The terra-cotta army was discovered in 1974; later, Chinese archaeologists excavated three pits containing more than 7,000 terra-cotta warriors with horses and chariots, all designed to protect the First Emperor in the afterlife. His tomb was an elaborate subterranean palace, a parallel world that would enable his rule after his death.

This exhibition was organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in partnership with the Asian Art Museum and the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau and Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Centre, People’s Republic of China. ---

*“China’s Terracotta Warriors” now on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.*

*“An action-adventure narrative, part deep history, part archaeological romance…The terra-cotta warriors are awesome.”* —New York Times

*Read the paper online at www.chinainsight.info*
Get a glimpse into the life and legacy of China’s First Emperor. And see more than 120 rare objects—including 8 life-size terracotta tomb warriors—from the most important archaeological find of the 20th century.

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the “Eighth Wonder of the World.”

OCTOBER 28, 2012–JANUARY 20, 2013

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This exhibition was organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in partnership with the Asian Art Museum and the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau and Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Centre, People’s Republic of China.

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Teaching Chinese with technology at Minnetonka High School—The Magic

Part 1

By Will Ahern, Staff Writer

Students celebrated their good fortune—magic had arrived! The panacea to educational excellence was now within the reach of all ninth graders at Minnetonka High School (MHS). Apple iPads were being distributed to the students for use in all their classes.

Minnetonka, a school district of academic excellence in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities of Minnesota, was indeed distributing iPads to all ninth graders for use in all their classes, including Chinese. This was not a capricious or trendy solution, but a school district at the right place and at the right time able to leverage technology to accelerate and extend learning for its students—a long-established technology initiative supported by a communitywide referendum that worked in their favor. A 22-year Chinese program brought tremendous teaching experience to bear.

The technology initiative started in 2002 with the passing of a technology referendum. The vision of Superintendent Dr. Dennis Peterson and the school board had steered the school district to a point today where technology is an essential part of teaching and preparing its students for the 21st century. All Minnetonka classrooms have SMART boards, interactive whiteboards, allowing students to interact and participate like never before, and sound field solutions, enabling all students to hear the teacher’s voice anywhere in the room during a lesson. Handheld student response systems are used in classrooms K-12. The use of technology in the classroom benefits all students. Minnetonka has become a national leader in using educational technology as an accelerator of learning.

In the 2011-2012 school year, a pilot of iPads was conducted in the ninth grade to test digital curriculum materials, student collaboration tools, and individualized instruction with goals to:

- Enhance and accelerate learning
- Leverage technology for individualizing instruction
- Promote collaboration, increasing student engagement

Strengthening the 21st century skills necessary for future student success

Half of the ninth graders received iPads and half were the control group. Midway through the year the evidence of benefits was so compelling the school board agreed to outfit the balance of the students with iPads immediately. This year, 1,600 ninth- and tenth-grade students are outfitted with iPads as well as hundreds more throughout grades 11 and 12.

The success of the iPad is made possible by a significant commitment to teacher engagement and training, a centralized learning hub, Google Docs, a robust wireless infrastructure and many other features.

In the fall of 1989, Minnetonka School Districts became one of the first districts in Minnesota to start teaching Chinese. Dr. Dale Rusch, then director of curriculum and instruction, proposed the addition of the Chinese language to the world language curriculum at Minnetonka High School.

Then Minnetonka Superintendent Donald Draayer advocated to the school board to add Chinese. “My rationale to the school board was that the absence of a world language from Asia was like playing baseball without third base,” wrote Draayer. The board voted 4-3 in favor and 28 students enrolled in Minnetonka’s first Chinese class. During the summer of 1989, the Tiananmen Square protest happened and was forcibly put down by the Chinese government. More than half of those enrolled in Chinese, withdrew. By 2005, MHS enrolled more than 200 students and in 2007, the district started its Chinese immersion program. It has grown into one of the largest, most comprehensive K-12 Chinese programs in Minnesota.

The Minnetonka School District has 20-plus full-time Chinese teachers as well as an exchange teacher relationship with the Hangzhou Foreign Language School (HFLS). Since 1989, the Minnetonka School District has hosted Chinese teachers every year (except 1999-2000 when there were visa problems). Chinese teachers who come to Minnesota under this program are teachers of English at the HFLS, a prestigious high school in the city of Hangzhou, just west of Shanghai in Zhejiang Province, PRC. The HFLS, a boarding school whose students are top students from the province, offers intensive English language instruction in grades 7-12. At Minnetonka, the Chinese teacher assists school staff in teaching Mandarin Chinese and is encouraged to attend/participate in a variety of school and community activities.

The two Chinese immersion schools embedded in elementary schools have now evolved to include the sixth grade, and are part of the middle schools as well. The plan is to continue the immersion through the eighth grade.

Part two of this article will discuss the specifics of a technology solution, including iPads and all the technologies in service at Minnetonka that go into a second-year Chinese language classroom. How the magic is made will be revealed.
Celebrating the magic and beauty of the season

Warm wishes for the very best this holiday season.
Wishing you and your family wisdom, strength and peace.

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The Imperial Mountain Villa at Chengde

The Imperial Mountain Villa at Chengde is found behind an imposing wall that marks the boundary of the town. It is a popular destination for tourists and a must-visit for anyone interested in Chinese history. The villa was built in the 18th century and is a fine example of Chinese imperial architecture.

The villa is a complex of temples and shrines, surrounded by stunning natural scenery. The main temple is the Grand Pagoda, which is a towering structure with multiple levels and intricate carvings. The pagoda is the centerpiece of the complex and is a testament to the skill and artistry of the Chinese craftsmen of the time.

The Villa also includes a series of smaller temples and shrines, each with its own unique design and purpose. These buildings are scattered throughout the grounds, creating a sense of mystery and wonder as visitors explore the complex.

One of the most striking features of the villa is the Hanging Garden, which is a series of terraces and pools that cascade down the mountain. The garden is beautifully landscaped and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape.

The Imperial Mountain Villa is not only a place of worship but also a place of leisure and relaxation. The gardens are designed to provide a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of modern life.

In conclusion, the Imperial Mountain Villa is a true masterpiece of Chinese architecture and artistry. It is a testament to the rich history and culture of China and a must-see destination for anyone visiting the region.

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Travel

Fun and Merriment at the Rainbow's End

By Liu Huanzhi & Xu Ying, China Today

T
ough many times eclipsed by its more famous neighboring cit-
ess of Beijing and Tianjin, Hebei Province hardly delivers a lack luster perfor-
mance where local color and beautiful envi-
rions are concerned. The imposing Yanshan and Taibang mountains have bestowed on Hebei one of Mother Nature's most beautiful landscapes, one that invites sustained awe.

Hebei, if defined by colors, is a rainbow of yellow, red, blue, green and white. Its dynastic history and imperial heritage stain it in yellow, and the Xibaoiu CPC Central Committee site in the late 1940s adds a tinge of red. And blue, green and white are the natural palette of sea, land and its roving snowy winter.

Hebei is the only provincial-level admin-
istrative region in China that boasts a full range of geographical features, includ-
ing seashores, plains, grasslands, lakes and
rolling ranges both high and low. All these full range of geographical features, includ-
ing seashores, plains, grasslands, lakes and
rolling ranges both high and low. All these

Blue: Seaside Fun

Bohai Bay extends for [301.9 miles] in Hebei Province, its northeastern side curv-
ing like a necklace from the Shandong Pass to Haixingkou. The soft, golden beaches invite travelers to pause in their wanderings and throw themselves into the embrace of the sea – feeling the caress of its gentle waves, frolicking with the rising and retreating tides, watching the sunset and sunrise, and greeting fishing boats returning with a full day's catch. Such seaside fun can be found at Beidaihe, Nandaiai, Feicui Island, Lao-
ting Triple Islets, Chengzi Golden Coast, and in fact everywhere along the [301.9-mile] Bohai Bay.

Beidaihe is the earliest and largest bath-
ning beach in China, thanks to its agreeable climate and beautiful environment. Across its shore of [6.2 miles] there are many flat and soft beaches sheltered by the lush Li-
angfeng Mountain on the land side. In 1898 the imperial Qing government designated Beidaihe the "summer resort for personages of various countries." In no time private villas, recreation facilities and accommoda-
tion fanned out along its beaches, and the once deserted shore became a vacation spot for officials, aristocrats and rich busi-
nessmen from China and abroad. After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, many sanatoriums and hotels were built by government ministries and state-owned enterprises, between or behind the old facili-
ties or farther out along the wings, turning Beidaihe into China's largest beach resort.

Nandaiai is connected to Beidaihe by a bridge and has a shoreline stretching [10.9 miles]. Its young beaches are no less fine and beautiful than that of Beidaihe, but their waters are definitely bluer and cleaner. Over the last two decades, it has quickly grown into a popular bathing resort, with such public recreational facilities as sand and grass slides that can't be found at Beidaihe.

It would be a shame for tourists at Beid-
aixe and Nandaiai to miss the Old Dragon Head, the starting point of the Great Wall.

The Great Wall extends for more than [1,240 miles] in Hebei, blessing the province with the longest, best preserved and most varied section in any province. Taking a cruise west of the Old Dragon Head, you can see a double wonder of the Great Wall – a section across mountain ridges reflects on the water surface and makes a shadowy twin brother on the seabed; tracing the shadow, you can find out how the Wall crawls out of the sea and starts its [3,100-mile] journey across the mountains of northern China. At Hebei's Jiaoshan, Jinshanling, Panjiakou, Qingshan and many other places, you will lose your way in the beauty and wilderness of the Great Wall.

Green: Call of the Wild

The west of Hebei is hilly grassland, part of the vast North China Plain. Taibang and Yanshan mountains meet here, and the Juna and Yishui rivers meander through valleys, hills and the plain.

The Hanging Garden may be a Babylon-
ian legend, but a hanging valley does exist here. In Yuxian County, [124 miles] west of Beijing, a [14.4-square mile] alpine meadow nestles among mountains between the Sang-
gun and Juna rivers. At an altitude of 2,158 meters, the meadow has mild summers and moderate weather the rest of the year. The best season is from May to October when the meadow blooms, making a riot of changing colors.

The largest grassland in Hebei is un-
doubtedly Bashang. Stretching from Zhang-
bei County and Shangyi County in the west to Xinglong County in the east, the meadow covers an area of [80,000 square miles]. Bashang literally means "on the highland," as the terrain rises abruptly at the northern rim of the North China Plain to reach for the Mongolian Plateau. Dubbed the backyard garden of Beijing, these ranges are about four hours drive from the capital. On week-
ends, urbanites come enjoy the breezes, natural surroundings and the adventure of riding a horse.

Yesanpo World Geological Park in Laishui County is the most majestic stretch of the Taibang Mountain Range, the [240-square mile] park remains in a pristine state – mountains, canyons, creeks, falls, and glacier, the ecosystem functions as in-
dependently as it did thousands of years ago.

In Xinglong County there is a mountain that also remains undisturbed by human ac-
tivity. Called Wuling, this main peak of the Yanshan Mountains reaches [6,989] feet in altitude. Close to the royal cemeteries of the Qing Dynasty, it was closed to logging and hunting for centuries. The second largest astronomical observatory in China is also located here.

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Fun and Merriment at the Rainbow's End

continues from Page 8

Park in Fuping County of Baoding City got its name from a naturally formed bridge of metamorphic rock, the largest in China. Nature's construction spurs a mighty waterfall that thunders down, roars in quick succession through nine twists in the riverbed, slicing a glittering and splashy course through boundless green fields of varied hues.

Mountains are dotted across Hebei like emeralds in a crown. Tuoliang in Pingshan County appears like humps; Zhangshiyan in Zanhuang County is loved for its unworldly beauty and tranquility, a perfect model for traditional landscape ink paintings; Zhangshiyan in Zanhuang County of Shijiazhuang City features an array of peaks of multifarious shapes that are so artfully aligned as to inspire poetry. Cangyan in Jingxing County represents the prime view of the Taihang Range; Yumeng in Xingtai City takes pride in its opulent vegetation – as high as 95 percent has green coverage; Tianshu in Pingshan County can stand comparison with Guilan in southern China for its lichenoid limestone caverns and strange monoliths; the canyon path in Xingtai City links 24 canyons in close proximity, where scarcely used trails meander at dangerous angles between reddish bluffs, fade into a dense mist, and then invisibility.

Hebei Province is also home to mighty waterways. Baiyangdian, located in Baoding City, is the largest freshwater lake on the North China Plain. In summer, lotus leaves, as a Chinese poem goes, stretch to the horizon, and the lotus blossom glows on a natural green canvas. Reeds and bulrushes stand at attention in the lake, with catkins dancing in the breeze. Hengshui Lake, the second largest freshwater body in northern China, has a decidedly different ambiance. Light fog always envelops it. If aboard a boat, you will see isles in the middle of the lake draw nearer, and mist drifting away gradually. Then in a second, the expanse of the lake unfolds before you – a moment full of surprise and joy.

Hebei is also rich in hot springs. In the mountains of Chicheng County, a hot spring has been bubbling for hundreds of years. In Gu'an County, hot springs are arranged in independent small quadrangles, allowing travelers to enjoy their leisure time more fully. In Wentang Town, Pingshan County, a famous radon hot spring is particularly popular for its special therapeutic functions.

Red: Nurturing the New China

Xibaipo, a village [55.8 miles] northwest of Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei, is a household name in China. In May 1948, Mao Zedong and other leaders moved here. The village then became the headquarters of the CPC and the People's Liberation Army till October 1949 when the People's Republic of China was established in Beijing. Now it is a popular tourist destination, receiving hundreds of thousands of travelers every year.

A number of places in Hebei bear the honorable scars of China's modern history, in particular from Chinese resistance to the Japanese invasion during WWII. Ranzhuang Village in Qingyuan County was the site of the tunnel war. Local villagers and guerrillas were far outnumbered by the enemy, so played hide-and-seek with them by building an underground maze in the 1940s. This invisible network provided a retreat from routinely staged looting and killing sprees.

Qianxiany Village of Xingtai City was the interim campus of the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese Military and Politics University from November 1940 to January 1943. It graduated more than 8,000 students, many of whom later became PLA commanders. In 1955 alone 109 were awarded the rank of general.

The Langya Mountain stands as a monument to five soldiers who threw themselves off the cliff in 1941 after running out of ammunition, rather than surrender to the enemy. Their entire company had been slaughtered in a mission to hold off Japanese forces so the Chinese army and some civilians could make a safe withdrawal. The film Five Martyrs of the Langya Mountain was made in the 1950s based on this story.

Laoji County is the birthplace of Li Duobao, a patriotic scholar and one of the founders of the CPC who was garroted by a warlord in 1927. A museum dedicated to him was opened here in 1997.

Due to its important geographical position, Hebei was the central battleground of China's 20th century. More than 100 sites and monuments have been erected to commemorate the presence of the CPC in the region or the war to combat Japanese invaders, reminding people of the value of a peaceful life.

White: Snowy Romance

"A snowflake as large as a carpet," sighed Li Bai, a great poet of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when he happened upon Yanshan Mountain in winter. The low temperatures and rolling mountains in Hebei create perfect winter scenes and prime conditions for snow sports.

Eight slopes attract hordes of skiers every year: four in Chongli, two in Shijiazhuang, one in Chengde and one in Qinhuangdao. Chongli boasts the best conditions for skiing. The snowfall is robust and winds not so heavy. The moist climate provides good snow cover for a long ski season. The General Administration of Sports and Chinese Ski Association [both have] named Chongli the best skiing area in North China.

According to the local development plan, Chongli will construct a range of skiing and vacation venues to meet the demands of Asian Winter Games and Winter Olympic Games.

Yellow, red, blue, green and white constitute the charm of Hebei, and its history adds weight to the attraction. This is the battleground where the Yellow Emperor defeated Chiyou and created the Chinese nation; the Nihewan ruins in northern Hebei dates back to the Paleolithic age more than one million years ago; the Great Wall crossing the province from east to west was witness to wars among different tribes, and in peaceful times to the prosperity brought by border trade.

The province now has three world cultural heritage designations, 168 national historic sites, five national historical cities, and 600-plus scenic spots. Hebei has four treasures – iron lions in Cangzhou, the Dingzhou tower, the Zhaozhou stone bridge, and Longxing Temple in Zhengding. The martial art tradition of Cangzhou and paper-cutting in Xuxian County are both listed in China's intangible cultural heritage.

Shoppers won't be bored. Hebei also boasts several commodity distribution centers, like China's largest luggage market in Baigou, the largest sheepskin garment production base and market in the country, located in Xini, the largest cashmere market Qingshe, one of the largest wine production bases in Huailai of Zhangjiakou and Changli of Qinhuangdao. Several first-class golf courses also make Hebei a haven for business people seeking a break from the desk and boardroom.

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http://www.chinatoday.com.cn/english
Patricia Puffer, Honorary Chinese Minnesotan of Note

By Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends

Promoting mutual understanding between Chinese and American citizens has been an abiding passion for Patricia Puffer, a lifelong volunteer at the Minnesota International Center, U.S. China People’s Friendship Association, and China Center at the University of Minnesota.

In 1977 Puffer and her husband, Ken-neth, were among the first groups of Americans to visit China, soon after the thaw in U.S.-China relations. As the first wave of Chinese visiting scholars began arriving at the University of Minnesota afterwards, Puffer became a conversation partner for them. These scholars were shy, had had very limited English instruction in China, and needed practice in English conversation in order to increase their comprehension.

Realizing that these scholars, because of their limited English and lack of means of transportation, seldom or even never the area around the University, Puffer set about acquainting them with American life. She and her husband launched tours to take them to places related to their individual fields of interest, ranging from agriculture to medicine, architecture, business and, in addition, various aspects of American culture. During University breaks there were usually two or three tours each day of the week to schools, medical clinics, business offices, factories, the Grain Exchange, along with the Minnesota Zoo, Minnesota Science Museum, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and other institutions of American culture. Of particular interest to the scholars were their tours to senior housing and care centers in the Twin Cities. These were a rarity in China at the time. Over lunches with these American seniors many different ideas and practices of caring for and honoring seniors in Chinese or U.S. cultures were discussed. Everyone came away with a better appreciation of what each culture had to offer.

As interest and demand in these tours grew Puffer recruited additional American host-drivers. Soon friendships were sprouting up between these host-drivers and the Chinese scholars. Puffer promptly set up additional opportunities, such as potluck suppers and home visits, to foster these budding friendships and to enlarge these circles of engagement to friends and neighbors of these host-drivers. Many back and forth invitations to share each other’s holidays and customs ensued, greatly furthering understanding on both sides.

To better equip herself for these tasks Puffer enrolled in Chinese language classes at the University of Minnesota. She learned enough Chinese to converse amicably with the scholars and, more importantly, to distinguish Chinese name sounds, particularly on the phone.

Puffer and her husband also led tours of the reverse kind: taking Americans to China. Afterwards they frequently presented slide shows of these tours to public schools (both inner-city and suburban), churches, Rotary club meetings, and other interested organizations. Their goal always was to promote a better understanding of the everyday life of the citizens of a fast emerging country that had, at that time, received very little attention from the press in this country.

For many years Puffer was also active with the China Center at the University, matching new Chinese students and scholars with American professionals in their particular fields of interest. She has kept in touch with many of her former scholars, treasuring the news of their grown children and their life changes.

The Chinese Heritage Foundation honors Patricia Puffer for her joyful self-effacing volunteerism, ready responses and tireless efforts on behalf of many Chinese scholars, and promoting dialogues and pioneering mutual understanding between China and the United States during the nascent period of modern U.S./China relations.

CHF Open House continues from Page 1

Chinese visual arts were also recognized with a grant award from CHF this year. From Oct. 28, 2012, - Jan. 20, 2013, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts will host the “China’s Terracotta Warriors” exhibit of rare artifacts from the Xian excavation. The well-known terra-cotta army of 7,000 statues sculpted to protect the first emperor of China in his tomb in 221 BCE and were discovered in 1974. These warriors are some of the most important and well-known artifacts of Chinese history. In addition to the warriors and objects found in this famous tomb, the exhibit also will provide a broader historical context for China during that time by exploring several other fascinating relics of China’s history.

All of these opportunities not only matched new Chinese students and scholars with American host-drivers, but also hand-selected by Chinese curator Liu Yang. The foundation also presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Stephen Mao of Passage. Mark your calendars for the sixth annual event on the weekend of April 13-14, 2013.

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President Ming L. Tchou presented Puffer the Chinese Minnesotan of Note Award before the foundation and Puffer’s children, several of whom are also involved in the Chinese community in Minnesota.

The foundation also presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Stephen Mao and Rev. Stephen Tsui, both of whom are active members of CHF’s calligraphy team. Stephen Mao has visited schools, events around the Twin Cities, sharing his talents in both translation and calligraphy. He has given presentations on a variety of topics, from the origins and development of Chinese calligraphy to surviving WW II in China. CHF’s executive director and fellow Calligraphy Committee member Pearl Bergard says of Mao’s contributions to the committee, “He’s often a one-man team, serving as both translator and calligrapher at the same time. He never takes the easy way out of this important task. Stephen always rises to the needs of the moment.”

Ming Tchou (L) presents award to Tsui

The last speaker of the open house, China Insight publisher and chair of the CHF Board of Directors, Greg Hugh, closed the event with a final reflection on the achievements of the past eight years and plans for numerous future Chinese events. In late October, the foundation welcomed author Cathy Bao Bean to talk about her book “The Chopsticks-For Principle, A Memoir and Manual.” The novel is an insightful look into trying to live with the differences of Chinese and Western culture, and Bao Bean discusses the issues of a bicultural family.

The foundation also encourages visiting the terra-cotta warriors at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and will be hosting tours to the exhibition. In addition, because of the success of “A Passage to China” in spring, thanks to more than 12,000 visitors and 45-plus China-related organizations, a date has already been set for next year’s Passage. Mark your calendars for the sixth annual event on the weekend of April 13-14, 2013.
The MEDA Gala is a great networking opportunity between business owners and corporate professionals while providing critical funding to support MEDA’s mission.

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MEDA would like to give a special thanks to China Insight for its continued support.
Chinese Health Minister Chen Zhu visited Minnesota

AMCP played co-host in welcoming Minister Chen's visit

Chinese Health Minister Dr. Chen Zhu, accompanied by his wife, Dr. Chen Saijuan and other Health Ministry officials, had a successful visit to Minnesota during October 5 and October 8, 2012. Minister Chen was nominated by Dr. John Kersey, Cancer Center Director Emeritus and a pioneer in bone marrow transplant, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the Regents of the University of Minnesota at the residence of University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler for his distinguished contribution to the treatment of acute myelocytic leukemia.

Health Minister continues from Page 1

The full article can be viewed at http://www.mndaily.com/2012/10/09/u-honors-minnesota-chinese-health-minister/

Chinese Health Minister Dr. Chen Zhu, accompanied by his wife, Dr. Chen Saijuan and other Health Ministry officials, had a successful visit to Minnesota during October 5 and October 8, 2012. Minister Chen was nominated by Dr. John Kersey, Cancer Center Director Emeritus and a pioneer in bone marrow transplant, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the Regents of the University of Minnesota at the residence of University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler for his distinguished contribution to the treatment of acute myelocytic leukemia.

During his visit, Minister Chen also met Governor Mark Dayton, Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Ed Erlinger, Medical School Dean Dr. Aaron Friedman, School of Public Health Dean Dr. John Finnegan and College of Science and Engineering Dean Steven Crouch as well as many University department leaders including Prof. John Bischoff and David Pui of Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Wes Miller of Department of Medicine. Minister Chen also met China Center Director Joan Brzezinski, Dr. Phillip Peterson and Dr. Paul Quie of the International Medical Education and Research program, Association of Minnesota Chinese Physicians (AMCP) members, representatives of many local biomedical industry giants such as Medtronic, 3M and United Health Group, Chinese Student and Scholar Association and the local Chinese community.

Minister Chen also gave a key note speech at the University of Minnesota about the Chinese healthcare reform progress and had academic exchanges with the colleagues at University of Minnesota.

AMCP and USCHIC arranged a Lake Minnetonka cruise and a dinner to facilitate the interaction between Minister Chen’s delegation and the local community. Minister Chen’s visit has been very fruitful in forging solid collaborations between Minnesota and China in the areas of healthcare service, health professional training and biomedical research in addition to promoting friendship and understanding between US and China. Consul General WANG Guoqiang of China’s Consulate General in Chicago and other consulate officials also participated in Minister Chen’s Minnesota visit. ■

Teaching Chinese: The mind is wired for story

By Jodi Yin James, Staff Writer

In recent studies of how the mind works, it has been found that our mind is hard-wired for story. There are examples of different people making this assertion. In the end, we will apply this to language learning.

George Lakoff, a UC Berkeley Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science, has documented that the way we frame things to ourselves and to others is through metaphors and stories. Metaphors are an inherent part of the structure of the brain and the way the mind seeks understanding. "Metaphors We Live By" is Lakoff’s recent book announcing this discovery.

Lakoff’s work suggests that stories do not simply fascinate or entertain us. Rather, our brain is wired for plots and craves the narrative content to make them come to life. Across all cultures people crave stories to animate classic plots. We are hardwired for stories in context, as opposed to lists of vocabulary or information (out of context).

The seven classic plots of story are found ubiquitous across cultures in every language. These are named by Christopher Booker in his book, “The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories”:


Paschal Baute, Ed. D., a psychologist (www.paschalbaute.com), gives an illustrated example of the importance of using story for teaching in the classroom. He says, “If one asks a class if they are ready for a scary story, every single hand shoots up immediately. That is not accidental. It is so simple, innate and pervasive, that it shows how the brain works. It is obvious that the kids need narrative to help them. Help them do what? Feel safe? Conceive options? The need does not matter. What matters is that there is an inherent craving for story narrative to fit the universal plot of Overcoming the Monster. Each of us is waiting for the story that can deeply satisfy such needs. And if the story is scary enough, your listeners are sure to tell you. Or beg for more.”

Another writer, Lloyd Glauberman, PhD, wrote about the mind and stories in the Jan 8, 2011, Huffington Post. He said, "The mind is wired for journeys. Our life is structured as a narrative that involves getting from one place to another. And successful stories on the Myth of the Hero theme where difficult obstacles are overcome, are the most compelling."

In her recently published book, "Wired for Story," Lisa Cron also puts together brain research and stories. She writes that, "The thing and one thing only, hooks readers: curiosity."

Cron goes on to explain that the brain is wired to be more interested in what happens next than in fancy language. Brain science tells us how our brains experience stories as they lead. Stories captivate in a way nothing else can.

Curiosity is the trigger, the desire to find out what happens next. There is a feeling of pleasure which is a rush of dopamine and it is a neural reward for curiosity, urging us to keep reading until we find the answer. This information is a game changer given how one is led to believe that “having a way with words” is what hooks readers. Story is what captivates in a way nothing else can.

1. Surprise. Surprise gets our attention and then we’re wired to immediately start looking for the next thing going on, to sense whether one will get whacked or kissed. With surprise a story grabs the brain’s attention.

2. The Setting. If a story, if we’re not feeling, we’re not reading. The reader slips into the protagonist’s skin – feeling and tasting and wanting and fear and anticipating.

3. The Goal. We’re wired to be goal driven so we jump into the story’s agenda.

4. Stories Tell Us What We Need to Know. 99.9 percent of all incoming data to our brain is discarded so with a story, we focus on what we need to know. Essential details captivate.

5. Specifics. We don’t think in the abstract; we think in concrete images so love it or a concept, a kiss or a bouquet of sweet smelling deep red fresh cut roses or yummy chocolate.

6. Conflict hooks us into what is happening.

7. If Must Make Sense so the cause and effect of the story are important.

What does all of this brain research mean for the language teacher? It means that in teaching Chinese, we are not just telling our students about the young French girl walking in the park in front of the Eiffel Tower munching on a croissant - we must add that OOPS! she just tripped over a dead body, NOOOO! what happens next.

Or, in teaching Chinese, our young hero, Xiao Wang, is speeding through Shanghai on the high-speed train or the Maglev on his way to the airport, and he witnesses a mysterious exchange between two passengers and then a theft of a laptop case of a third passenger. Oh noo....!!! What will Xiao Wang do? Then he runs into the culprits at the airport!

In other words, as language teachers, we must search for and use stories that have comprehensible input for our students, to hook them into using the target language out of a need to use it, out of a natural compulsion to be engaged in a story.

One curriculum that uses short stories in every lesson is 5-stars (jīng qíng wú hányí) or Chinese Made Easy, Levels 1-5. Moreover, this series is compatible with the Chinese language SAT and IB exams. As vocabulary builds, the lesson stories become more complex, in using the accumulated vocabulary. This begins right in the Level 1, first textbook of the 5-level series.

However, one would like to add novels or short stories in Chinese that also have a controlled vocabulary and repetition for the young readers. These are not yet forthcoming. EMC has such novels for levels 1 - AP for the Chinese, German, and French. Let us hope that we can find such materials for our Chinese language learners soon. Bright minds are compelled to engage in language studies, unless we give them a reason to stay.

For more information or to add your comments, experiences, and ideas about language teaching and applied pedagogy, visit chineseclassroomreality.blogspot.com.

www.chinainsight.info
An interesting number popped up in October in the news: 6 billion. That's the approximate number of cell phones in use right now in the world according to the International Telecommunications Union. In China, the reported number of mobile phone subscribers is around one billion; which is of no surprise for a nation in which a majority of the middle class (about 85%) own a handset. But what is noteworthy for mobile companies and retailers all over the world looking to sell phones in Asia is the entrance of a new cell phone buyer: China’s migrant workers.

With millions of workers flooding the industrial epicenters from rural areas, Chinese migrants have played a dual role in the past by both providing cheap labor to support the middle class and remaining out of the limelight. With the advent of mobile accessibility, the Chinese might be experiencing a tech revolution. Where access to the internet and social media was previously unavailable, one might see a construction or factory worker carrying a cell phone and a smartphone.

There are many factors that contribute to the sudden rise of smartphone sales in China’s middle and lower class comparable to countries such as the United States that do not render each market equal. One reason may be the lack in comparable alternatives to internet access. Just like many developing countries, home internet connections are not as common among blue-collar workers, so the cell phone becomes the only option available. Another reason is the significantly lower cost of smartphones that are currently being produced by Chinese companies compared to American models in the United States. Domestic brands such as Lenovo or his rival Xiaomi offer mid-range options that are becoming affordable and have a far superior quality to low-range knock-off brands which once dominated the Chinese market.

With many locally made cell phones becoming more readily available in China, the PRC could become a dominant influencer in the smartphone industry. According to the IDC research group, China is forecast to overtake the United States in smartphone sales by 2012. Of the top five brands that were sold in China this year, three were of local companies: Lenovo, Coolpad and Huawei. According to the IHS iSuppli Research, all three brands individually outsold the Apple iPhone in the first half of 2012.

The explosion of high-tech mobile sales in China is game-changing both nationally and worldwide. Start-up and mobile-centered entrepreneurs are now in high demand, allowing new opportunities for industry growth not only in China’s retail market but also for companies across the globe who want to reach the millions of new cell phone users. For China’s migrant workers, many media experts note that the dramatic increase of mobile use will cause many changes in the socio-economic environment. Being able to post on sites such as Sina Weibo, workers have been able to organize and make their grievances known to the media and government, initiating positive changes in their communities.

While popularly used by many as a casual device, over the past decade many have witnessed mobile phones as a powerful economic and socio-political tool in countries all over the world. While I, as an average American, might catch up on news or play Angry Birds on my smartphone, in many developing communities it has been a part of major changes. Whether it was social networking during the Arab Spring or assisting entrepreneurs throughout Africa, when a late entry group enters into technology, it sometimes can be interesting to take note of the opportunities it provides. As a country that might be seeing digital technology available across a highly diverse income range, China is stepping closer to a new information era that is capable of altering the global environment.

Apple's plans for China bearing fruit in new store

The biggest Apple store in Asia [opened on Oct. 20] in Beijing and a new Shenzhen Apple store will soon follow, said a senior Apple Inc official said on [Oct.18].

The new store, the third one in Beijing and eighth in China, will stand in the city's Wangfujing shopping street, a well-known tourist attraction.

The opening signifies that the U.S.-based technology company is placing a greater emphasis on the Chinese market, said Wang Jinping, senior analyst with the U.S.-based IT research company International Data Corp.

John Browett, Apple’s senior vice-president of retail, has traveled to China for the opening of the new store. Speaking to the Chinese media, he mentioned his first trip to China in 1986. Then a student, he had stood in the same place where the new store was built.

“Who could have believed what’s happened in China in 25 years, let alone what’s happened with Apple,” Browett said.

He said he believes the new outlet is “the best store Apple has built in Asia so far.”

The three-level outlet will employ more than 300 people, more than double the number at any of the company's other stores in China.

Apple opened its first outlet in China in 2008, choosing Beijing's Sanlitun area as its location. Since then, the company has opened six more stores in the country, including two in Hong Kong. It has more than 390 in the world.

In 2011, Apple reported US$108 billion in sales revenue. About 12 percent of that came from China. The United States, for its part, was the source of about US$38 billion, according to the Chinese news portal Sohu.com.

“After Tim Cook became Apple CEO, he began to invest more in the Chinese market than (former CEO) Steve Jobs had invested,” Wang said.

Wang said Apple held the largest share of the Chinese market for tablet PCs in the second quarter of the year. Its 69 percent share made it the top seller of the devices in the Chinese mainland.

At the same time, the company had the third-largest share of the Chinese smartphone market in the second quarter. It held 10.4 percent of that market in the period, down from the 15 percent recorded for the second quarter of 2011.

“For smartphones, the number of annual shipments will reach 290 million in five years,” Wang said. “The coming iPhone 5 will certainly boost Apple’s sales in China. For that reason, opening this new store is a good idea, even though it won't have the same effect as the first few Apple stores that were in China.”

China surpassed the US this year to become the largest market for smartphones. This year is expected to see 185 million shipments of smartphones in China, according to IDC. Browett said Apple plans to open more stores in China soon.

(China Daily 10/19/2012 page13)
China is East Asia’s top performer in improving business regulatory efficiency since 2005

Washington, D.C., October 23, 2012—Over the past eight years, China has made the greatest progress in the East Asia and Pacific region in improving business regulations for local entrepreneurs, according to a new report from the World Bank.


“This year’s report shows that from June 2011 to June 2012, China implemented two regulatory improvements for local firms,” said Augusto Lopez-Claros, Global Indicators and Analysis, World Bank Group.

“China completed the first stage of a new building approval process that substantially reduces the total time for dealing with construction permits. China also made starting a business less costly, by exempting micro and small companies from paying several administrative fees from January 2012 to December 2014. These regulatory improvements are part of a pattern started several years ago intended to facilitate the operations of small and medium-size enterprises.”

The report finds that 11 of 24 economies in East Asia and the Pacific improved business regulations in the past year. Mongolia was the region’s top improver for the year and the only economy in East Asia and the Pacific among the global top 10 improvers in “Doing Business 2013.” Singapore tops the global ranking on the ease of doing business for the seventh year straight. Hong Kong SAR, China, holds onto the second spot.

This year’s report also features a case study that explores reform efforts by members of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation using the Doing Business framework.

The report’s global annual ranking on the ease of doing business shows that the 10 economies with the most business-friendly regulation are Singapore; Hong Kong SAR, China; New Zealand; the United States; Denmark; Norway; the United Kingdom; the Republic of Korea; Georgia; and Australia.

About the Doing Business report series

Doing Business analyzes regulations that apply to an economy’s businesses during their life cycle, including start-up and operations, trading across borders, paying taxes, and protecting investors. The aggregate ease of doing business rankings are based on 10 indicators and cover 185 economies. Doing Business does not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms and investors. For example, it does not measure the quality of fiscal management, other aspects of macroeconomic stability, the level of skills in the labor force, or the resilience of financial systems.

Its findings have stimulated policy debates worldwide and enabled a growing body of research on how firm-level regulation relates to economic outcomes across economies. This year’s report marks the 10th edition of the global Doing Business report series. For more information about the Doing Business report series, please visit www.doingbusiness.org. Join us on Facebook.

About the World Bank Group

The World Bank Group is one of the world’s largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. It comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).


World Bank classification of countries and regions: http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups

Source: World Bank

China is East Asia’s top performer in improving business regulatory efficiency since 2005

Call for Articles...

Concerned about misconceptions about China?

ChinaInsight is a local newspaper fostering U.S.-China cultural and business harmony.

We are interested in publishing articles that engage audiences in America. Potential topics range from understanding daily life in China (or for Chinese in America) to discussions of business markets from both an American or Chinese viewpoint.

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• Chinese impressions of America
• Art
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• Chinese musical instruments
• American business people in China
• Questions about China
• Cartoons
• Chinese immigrants who have succeeded in America
• Local Chinese Businesses
• Chinese-owned businesses in Minnesota
• Travel tales
• Cross-cultural exchanges in education and businesses
• Americans who are studying Chinese — why are you learning Chinese?
• How do Chinese students adapt to America?
• Chinese business customs

If you have an article on one of these topics or any others that might be of interest to our readers, please contact GregHugh at (952) 472-4757 or e-mail ghugh@chinainsight.info.

Soybean imports set to rise this year

By Zhou Siyu, China Daily

China, the world’s largest soybean consumer and importer, is expected to further increase its soybean imports this year, thanks to its increasing demand and declining domestic output.

That suggested the country is becoming more dependent on the global food market.

The China National Grain and Oils Information Center, a research unit at the State Administration of Grain, raised its forecast in its latest report, projecting that the country’s soybean imports will reach 3.5 million metric tons in October, 5.2 million tons in November and 4.5 million tons in December.

This means that China’s soybean imports this year will increase 9.3 percent from last year to a total of 75.7 million tons.

The country’s domestic soybean output, meanwhile, was estimated to decline by 11.6 percent from last year to 12.8 million tons, as China’s soybean growing area shrank by 14.43 percent from a year earlier to this year’s 6.75 million hectares, according to the report.

In the meantime, China’s soybean consumption this year was predicted to increase 3 percent from last year to 74.4 million tons, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

This marks the 10th consecutive annual increase in the country’s soybean consumption and will increase the nation’s reliance on imports, industry analysts said.

China was not a soybean importer until the 1990s. But 82 percent of the soybeans consumed in the country in 2011 came from imports. More than 40 percent of the imported beans were from the United States, according to official data.

Ma Wenfeng, a senior analyst at Beijing Orient Agribusiness Consultant Ltd, one of the industry’s largest specialist consultant,
China’s Economy over the Last Ten Years

By John Ross

China is approaching its once-in-a-decade change in president and government. It’s a good time to pause and reflect on the last 10 years of China’s economic performance. The data for 2012 is still being produced, but the last decade was 2001-2011. This doesn’t give us a precise overlap with the country’s politics – 2001 was the final year of the previous administration, but that is a quibble. In the coming decade, there’s no doubt China seems set to become more unstable. It will face growing unrest as unemployment mounts.” It argued: “The economy still relies primarily on domestic engines of growth, which are stuttering. Growth over the last five years has relied heavily on massive government spending. As a result, the government’s debt is rising fast. Coupled with the banks’ bad loans and the huge pension liabilities, this is a financial crisis in the making.” But instead of “crisis,” China, as we have seen, experienced the most rapid growth ever in GDP per capita in a single devastating year.

Gordon Chang predicted in “The Coming Collapse of China in 2002”: “A half-decade ago the leaders of the People’s Republic of China had real choices. Today they do not. They have no exit. They have run out of time.” Chang, obviously, was way off the mark.

When the international financial crisis erupted, Michael Pettis of Beijing University in 2009 said: “I continue to stand by my comment last year... that the U.S. would be the first major economy out of the crisis and China one of the last.” In reality, in the four years since the crisis began China’s economy has grown by 40 percent and the U.S. economy by one percent.

Such statements – and many more examples could be given – are not calculation errors in the prediction of economic details. Predictions are never accurate, and we can never be sure of future data until we see it. The errors made in these publications’ analyses are so massive that they got the entire trajectory of China’s economy wrong. To predict “stuttering,” “crisis” or “collapse” when China experienced the most rapid per capita economic growth of a major country in human history would, if rational standards of debate were abide by, lead to the producers of such analyses no longer being taken seriously. Surely it’s strange that Gordon Chang continues to be employed as a “China expert” by Forbes and Michael Pettis is still printed in the Financial Times predicting three percent growth in China. Given their failures to correctly predict anything in China over the last decade surely undermines their credibility.

Do China’s extraordinary economic growth figures mean that it faces no problems? Of course not. But the fact that problems exist – as they do in any economy – doesn’t mean we should ignore the country’s impressive achievements. It’s worth reiterating the fact that no other major country in human history has ever experienced such rapid per capita economic growth as China in the last 10 to 15 years. But again, this growth as translated into the most rapid rise in consumption ever recorded. Surely, these are truly awesome economic facts.

Source: China Today.

China’s economy would fail during this period have been proven wrong again and again. It would take the whole magazine to make a comprehensive list of pundits and publications that have predicted a Chinese economic blowout. But here are a few examples:

The Economist magazine claimed in a special supplement in June 2002 Out of Puff, that: “...in the coming decade, there’s no doubt China seems set to become more unstable. It will face growing unrest as unemployment mounts.”

Why Consider Exporting?

Why should your company consider exporting? Here are several reasons:

- Access. Today, improvements in trade finance, the Internet, and trade agreements have dramatically increased access to markets worldwide.

- Demand. More than 70 percent of the world’s purchasing power is located outside of the United States. Your competitors are increasing their global market share, and you can too.

- Profitability. Exporting can be profitable for businesses of all sizes. On average, sales grow faster, more jobs are created, and employees earn more than in non-exporting firms.

- Competitive Advantage. The United States is known throughout the world for high quality, innovative goods and services, customer service, and sound business practices.

- Risk Mitigation. Most companies that have experienced an easier time riding out fluctuations in the U.S. economy and are more likely to stay in business.

China's Economy over the Last Ten Years

The much-peddled myth in some media is that: “China’s economy is growing by 9 percent growth and the total increase in GDP per capita is 158 percent. Examining World Bank data, and Angus Maddison’s standard reference work: “World Population, GDP and GDP Per Capita, 1-2006 AD” for earlier timeframes, this makes China’s the fastest growth ever recorded by a major economy. This figure is all the more extraordinary when we take into account the fact that problems exist – as they do in any major economy.

- Translating this growth into a measure of living standards, in the last 10 years China has experienced far greater growth than Western countries in consumption of any major economy.

- Or medium-sized). The Economic Impact of Exporting

According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses have generated the majority of net new jobs over the past decade. Helping these firms grow by selling internationally is important to our economy.

- Less than one percent of America’s 30 million companies export – a percentage that is significantly lower than all other developed countries. And of U.S. companies that do export, 58 percent export to only one country. Many businesses could benefit from learning more about these international opportunities and resources available to help.

- Small and medium-sized companies account for 98 percent of U.S. exports, but represent less than one-third of the known export value of U.S. goods exports. (In 2010, there were over 293,000 identified U.S. exporters (269,269 of which were small or medium-sized).

Small Companies Have Vast Untapped Export Potential

In fiscal 2011, the U.S. Commercial Service network generated $14.600 export successes, facilitating $54 billion dollars in U.S. export sales.

The Department of Commerce’s Export Achievement Certificate recognizes companies that have benefited from the Department’s U.S. Commercial Service assistance to make their first export sale or enter new foreign markets.

For more information, visit http://export.gov, or call the U.S. Commercial Service’s Trade Information Center at 1-800-USA-TRADE (1-800-872-8723).
New York City isn’t what it used to be

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

With just a few weeks to recover from our visit to Chicago for Linda’s cousin’s wedding, my wife Linda and I departed for New York City recently to attend a wedding and do some sightseeing. I have to admit that it had been more than 35 years since I last visited NYC when I used to travel there regularly for business. I wasn’t sure what to expect even though Linda had visited less than 10 years ago and thought it was fine.

The next day we decided to start our city tour by taking a subway to Tribeca neighborhood where the wedding was to take place. We were fortunate that the hotel clerk graciously volunteered to upgrade our room, since we were staying five nights. The clerk was also very helpful in telling us how to navigate the city.

Soon after we got settled into our hotel, we ventured out into Chinatown in search of Nom Wah Tea Parlor, which Linda learned was a great dim sum place. We found the restaurant without any difficulty. While it lived up to its unique status of having retained all of its charm from the 1920s, we were disappointed that the dim sum we ate was surpassed by many of the better dim sum places we have in the Twin Cities.

As you can imagine, NYC has a lot of history and Linda had planned that we would visit a number of museums. After brunch, we went to the Tenement Museum and went on a guided tour of one of the preserved tenement buildings and learned about the early garment industry, which I have to admit that it had lived up to its unique status of having re-earned an award from Zagat.

Following our tour we headed to MOCA where we had made reservations to take a guided walking food tour of Chinatown. As it turned out, we had already visited quite a few of the sights on our own but did learn some additional information about how the food in Chinatown had evolved.

Our next stop via the subway was Grand Central Station, which Linda missed on her last trip to NYC. Grand Central Station has been transformed into a transit hub and now includes a variety of shops and food options for commuters and tourist alike set in an historic and architectural icon. A short walk away was the Rainbow Room and the NYC headquarters of NBC, of which we had hoped to take a tour. However, the reservations were filled for the day. We then took the subway back to Little Italy and had a nice seafood linguini dinner and then called it a day.

Sunday was the wedding, so we took it easy by beginning to pack and had a light lunch at a local Chinatown bakery before we went in search for the Hua Mei Bird Garden. It was at the top of a park that was also the site of a Moon Festival celebration for the community.

On our way back to our hotel to get ready for the wedding, we managed to squeeze in some additional shopping. The wedding was held not far from our hotel at the Tribeca Rooftop, which offered a spectacular view of the city skyline. Attending the wedding was the highlight of our visit to NYC. We hope it won’t be another decade or so to make a return visit since we found the city to be very hospitable with many sights and things to experience. The wedding reception embodied what you would expect in NYC. The bride and groom let us know that they really appreciated us being there by providing quite a spread - something we will always remember.

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sum the weather had cleared so we took a walk outside to see more of Chinatown and then returned to the mall to check out the huge grocery store and the food court. There was a great variety of dinning options and every conceivable noodle dish you could ever want, but thank goodness we were not in a mood to have anything else to eat since we decided to return to Manhattan’s Chinatown for dinner.

When we returned to Manhattan’s Chinatown, we were dropped off near the Bowery area where we walked around as we worked our way back to the interior of Chinatown, debating whether or not to do some shopping and other sightseeing. Linda wanted to stop at the Chinatown Ice Cream Factory where we had some ice cream.