

The Top Ten Stories About China – U.S. Relations from 2001 to 2011

By Elizabeth Greenberg, Staff Writer

CHINAINSIGHT has been promoting harmony between China and the United States for a decade now. But since most of our readers probably haven't been reading the paper for that whole time, I thought you might appreciate a summary. Here are the 10 most important news stories in China-U.S. relations for the last 10 years as determined by this writer.

Timeline: April 2001

Story: *Hainan Island Incident.* A United States Navy intelligence aircraft and a People's Liberation Army Navy fighter jet collided in midair, resulting in the death of the PRC pilot and the emergency landing of the intelligence aircraft on Hainan Island. The aircraft's crew was detained and interrogated until the United States delivered a

statement about the incident.

Why does it matter? It was the first foreign policy crisis of George W. Bush's administration, and was initially handled with a tone-deafness that would prove representative of Bush's China policy. It was the first of a series of China-U.S. clashes in the South China Sea. China disassembled the plane before returning it, and the code they mastered from the plane gave China access to classified intelligence information.

Timeline: December 2001

Story: *China joins the WTO.* After 15 years of negotiations, China's entry into the World Trade Organization was officially approved.

Why does it matter? WTO disputes often reflect events or patterns that affect relations

between China and the United States: for example, the dispute over allowing poultry imports in response to China's 2004 avian flu scare, and the two U.S.-China WTO disputes about intellectual property that received a ruling in 2009.

Timeline: March 2003

Story: *Hu Jintao becomes President of China*

Why does it matter? Hu's presidency has had many positive effects for China and for the world: China's economic growth has been steady, and Hu's 'soft approach' to Taiwan has decreased tensions and increased contact between mainland China and Taiwan. However, Hu's foreign policy is more aggressive than that of his predecessor.

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Ten years in WTO

What has changed in China and the world?

By Yao Ling

On accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), China promised further economic reform and opening-up, establishing a trade policy system in line with international rules and advancing the healthy development of its national economy and foreign trade. In the 10 years since then China has honored those promises and seen momentous change.

Growing at an annual rate of 10.5 percent, the Chinese economy has climbed from the sixth largest economy in the world to the second. The value of its imports and exports have increased 4.8 times from US\$509.7 billion to US\$2.97 trillion, lifting China's share of global trade from 4 percent to 9.7 percent. Since 2005 net export's contribution to China's economic growth has remained at around 20 percent, adding two percentage points to the country's year-on-year growth rate.

This enormous growth not only benefits China, as its huge market and growing imports spell opportunities for businesses worldwide. In the decade from 2001 to 2010 China's annual imports averaged US\$750 billion, creating 14 million jobs for its trade partners. In response to the financial crisis that broke out in 2008, China took advantage of its strong economic position and deliberately stepped up its global spending to stimulate the struggling world economy. In 2009 and 2010 China's contribution to global growth exceeded 50 percent, providing strong support for the recovery of world economy.

A Highly Open System of Foreign Trade

In the past decade China has set up a highly open system of foreign trade according to its promises to the WTO, and so far it has smoothly passed three WTO reviews of its trade policies and won positive appraisals from the organization and its members. The first step towards this achievement was the formation of a three-tier legal system, consisting of the Foreign Trade Law, the Regulations on the Administration of Cargo Imports and Exports, and rules and regulations formulated by relevant administrations. It allows China to operate its imports and exports according to law and follow a standardized, transparent and indiscriminative process. China modified 3,000 laws and regulations in line with WTO rules and regulations.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government released its hold on foreign trade operation rights, allowing diversified players in the import and export sector. The Measures for Registration of Foreign Trade Operators came into effect on July 1, 2004, requiring licensed companies to file with relevant authorities when taking up import and export operations instead of having to apply for government approval as before. Reform of China's foreign trade operation system was one of the promises China made to the WTO, and was implemented six months before the deadline. It scrapped the monopoly of state-owned import and export companies, and brought into the game more players. After abolishing state-owned enter-

prises monopoly over imports and exports, private, foreign-funded and joint-venture companies account for nearly 90 percent of China's total exports.

China also further opened up its market by slashing tariff rates and non-tariff trade barriers. As for cargo imports, the average tariff rate has been decreased from 15.3 percent to 9.8 percent. Tariffs for imports of industrial products and agricultural produce, at 8.9 percent and 15.2 percent respectively, are the lowest for those products among developing countries. At the same time, restrictive non-tariff measures, including import quotas and import permits, have been abolished. In the service industry, China has opened 100 of the 160-odd sectors listed by the WTO, a level much higher than the average for developing countries, and is poised to open 11 more sub-sectors.

Learning, Adapting to and Employing WTO Rules

Of the WTO members China has encountered the largest number of trade remedy measures. China is dedicated to its stance against trade protectionism, which is fundamental to its foreign trade policy and has been articulated in all bilateral talks and negotiations under the G20 framework. In striving for a robust and healthy system of open international trade, China has been earnestly learning, adapting to, and employing WTO rules to handle trade conflicts.

Over its 10 years in the WTO China has sought to resolve conflicts with other members through the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, and has so far been involved in 19 cases, seven times as complainant and 12 as respondent. Of the cases against China one third were solved through negotiations. Of those going to the Dispute Panel and the

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Greetings:

With this issue, **CHINA/INSIGHT** officially celebrates its 10th anniversary of publishing that began in February, 2002 when we determined that there was a need for an English language newspaper that would help mutually promote business and cultural understanding between China and the United States. This would not have been possible without a dedicated volunteer staff and the support of our advertisers along with those of you that follow us regularly through print or the internet.

To celebrate our first decade, we plan to feature a series of articles that will reflect on some of the developments that have taken place over this period and begin with our lead article on page 1, The Top Ten Stories About China – U.S. Relations. We have also included articles on China's ascension to the World Trade Organization, the evolution of Chinese adoption and the progress of media in China in this edition of the paper. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have a topic or anything else that you would recommend to commemorate this occasion.

Although we plan to continue to focus on our print edition, we also realize that consumer habits are changing and there is a desire to gather information more quickly and more conveniently so we will be improving our Web site, www.chinainsight.info, to provide additional features and other resources to the community in a timely and relevant manner so please check our Web site regularly see our progress. You also have the option of receiving the newspaper directly in your mailbox by completing the subscription form at the bottom of this page.

As a publisher, **CHINA/INSIGHT** has also been instrumental in organizing events as well as collaborating with other organizations to promote business and cultural harmony between China and the United States. Such an event is *A Passage to China* (APTC) on which we are proud to collaborate with the *Chinese Heritage Foundation* and pleased to announce that we will be holding the 5th Annual APTC on April 21-22, 2012 at Mall of America.

Plans are now underway to again host APTC which has become the largest FREE event to be held in the Twin Cities that is devoted exclusively to promoting Chinese culture, history and entertainment. Last year over 13,000 attended the event that included over 50 participating organizations that were required to offer an interactive activity that would enable the participants to learn something about China. Although APTC has been extremely successful, we nonetheless are seeking a few new participants that might enhance the experience of our visitors and we invite additional China-related organizations to contact us about perhaps being a vendor, demonstrator or performer.

A Passage to China does not receive any public funding and to keep the event as pure as possible, has not solicited commercial sponsors so must rely solely on the support of the community. However, your participation is welcome; please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any ideas you would like to share or wish to support the Chinese community with this event. Volunteers are always welcome. See pg. 13 for more information.

While most of the Chinese New Year celebrations have taken place, there are still some great events taking place in the Twin Cities and we would recommend perhaps attending a presentation by Amy Chua at the Griffin Lecture or attending Shanghai Tango at Orpheum Theatre that are listed elsewhere in this paper.

As always, thank you for your continued support so that we can continue to serve the community and don't hesitate to contact us with any comments, good or bad.

Sincerely,
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China Center's Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture featuring Amy Chua



Amy Chua (Photo by Peter Z. Mahakian)

The University of Minnesota's China Center is pleased to welcome Amy Chua, John M. Duff, Jr. Professor at Yale Law School and author of best-selling book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," for the 11th Annual Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture on Friday, Feb. 10. The event will take place at the McNamara Alumni Center with the lecture, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother: Increasing Mutual Understanding Between the U.S. and China," beginning at 4:30 p.m. Question-and-answer and book-signing sessions will follow the lecture, with all three of Chua's books available for purchase on-site.

Chua was named one of The 2011 Time 100's Most Influential People. Her current book is titled "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," a parenting memoir on raising her

children the Chinese way. She is the author of two other books that are changing the context of global economics and international politics, "Day of Empire—how hyperpowers rise to global dominance, and why they fall" and "World on Fire—sustaining globalization by spreading its benefits while curbing its potential for ethnic violence." Chua also has taught law at Duke, Stanford, and New York Universities. She has been a Wall Street lawyer, Executive Editor of the Harvard Law Review and worked on international transactions throughout Asia, Europe and Latin America.

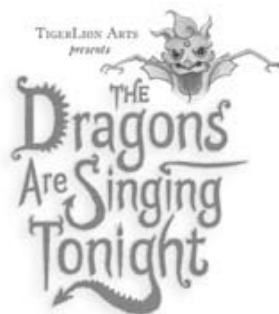
The Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture is free and open to the public. Tickets may be reserved online at <http://chinacenter.umn.edu> with a limited number of tickets available at the door. For assistance please contact the China Center at 612-624-1002.

About the University of Minnesota's China Center:

The China Center was established in 1979 to manage the University of Minnesota's exchanges with the People's Republic of China. For more than three decades, the China Center has reflected the firm and long-standing commitment of the University to international research, teaching and outreach. Learn more about the China Center at the University of Minnesota by visiting <http://chinacenter.umn.edu>. ■

Editor's Note: This event is SOLD OUT but a limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

TigerLion Arts presents: The Dragons Are Singing Tonight ~ the musical tale of a nasty dragon



In celebration of the Year of the Dragon, TigerLion Arts presents the world premiere of "The Dragons Are Singing Tonight ~ the musical tale of a nasty dragon" at the Southern Theater. This new musical is created in collaboration with the Minnesota Boychoir, Puppet Farm Arts, and Circus Juventas.

Premiering [on Jan. 26] just after the Chinese New Year, "The Dragons Are Singing Tonight" is based on the well-loved book of dragon poems by United States Children's Poet Laureate Jack Prelutsky. Composer Laurie MacGregor brings the poems to life in a score of sixteen songs, while Markell Kiefer (TigerLion Arts) directs actors Isabella Dawis, Tyson Forbes (TigerLion Arts),

Maxwell Chonk Thao, and Elise Langer in the story of an ordinary boy, a magical girl, and a nasty, nasty dragon. Thirty singing boys from the Minnesota Boychoir, three dazzling aerialists from Circus Juventas, 12 top-notch musicians, and countless puppets both giant and small create a wonderful winged world of dragons. The musical tale will inspire audiences with humor, beauty, and the simple message to believe.

Extending to the Community

The production will extend to the community with a Dragons Art and Music Residency Program aimed to benefit children through the shared experience of singing, storytelling, and creating art. To kick off the program, TigerLion Arts hosted school field trips to see the Southern premiere. Following the production, more than a thousand children at Richard R. Green Central Park School in Minneapolis and Northport Elementary in Brooklyn Center worked with their teachers, Dragons musicians, and puppet artists from In the Heart of the

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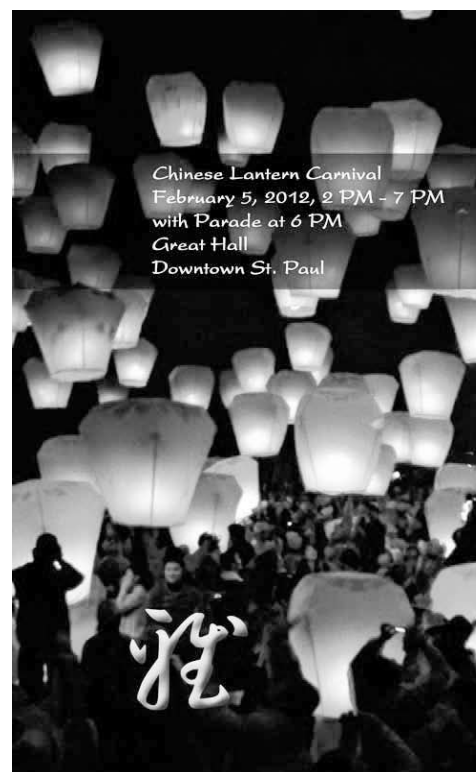
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Chinese Lantern Carnival
February 5, 2012, 2 PM - 7 PM
with Parade at 6 PM
Great Hall
Downtown St. Paul



As a closing event for the Lunar New Year series, the Chinese Lantern Carnival will have lantern making, "lantern riddles" game, which is an essential part of the Festival. Additionally, we will give away 500 lanterns to recreate such lanterns marching scene at St Paul downtown. Children with lanterns will parade from the Great Hall to the Mears Park, and hang their lanterns up to make a dragon shape to welcome the Dragon New Year - 2012.

传奇凤程

Feb. 5th, 2012 (Sun) 2 PM - 7 PM, Parade at 6 PM

The Great Hall
180 East Fifth Street,
St. Paul, MN 55101

FREE admission to the festivity performances;
additional charges for games and food

Call Asian Media Access for more information at 612-376-7715,
or on the web at <http://www.panasianartsalliance.org>

Event Hosts:
Asian Media Access, Pan Asian Arts Alliance, Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center,
East Culture Center

Sponsors:
City of St. Paul's Cultural STAR Fund
General Mills Foundation
MN State Arts Board
Medtronic
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
US Bank
Wells Fargo

Ticket prices are as follows:

- VIP: US\$30 Adults, US\$25 Children/Seniors
- Zone 1: US\$27 Adults, US\$22 Children/Seniors
- Zone 2: US\$25 Adults, US\$20 Children/Seniors

Tickets are available at www.tigerlion.org or 612-343-3390.

TigerLion Arts celebrates human wisdom and the spirit of nature through creative works that awaken, inform, and delight. For more information visit www.tigerlion.org

This activity is made possible in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board through the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Adapted from THE DRAGONS ARE SINGING TONIGHT. Text Copyright ©1993 by Jack Prelutsky. Used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers. ■

Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre and Puppet Farm Arts to learn the Dragons songs and create their own dragon characters and stories through mask and puppetry. TigerLion Arts will provide songbooks, art materials, copies of Prelutsky's book, and help teachers develop an integrated curriculum in an effort to reach every student.

Finally, the students will participate in two large community events in May; the Heart of the Beast May Day parade in downtown Minneapolis, and a choral performance at Green Central Park, where hundreds of children from the two schools will come together to sing The Dragons Are Singing Tonight.

Public Performance Schedule

"The Dragons Are Singing Tonight" will be performed through Feb. 12. Performances times are: Thursday and Friday 7 p.m.; Saturday 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m.

The show is recommended for ages 4 and up. Ticket prices for children (15 & under) and seniors (65 & over) are reduced.



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Preparing Chinese K-12 teachers in Minnesota to be strong language teaching professionals

By Jodi Yim James, Staff Writer



Dr. Bigelow

Dr. Martha Bigelow is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). Bigelow's program, Second Languages and Cultures Education, prepares Mandarin Chinese language teachers to teach in K-12 schools in Minnesota.

Bigelow has received many awards, including the Multicultural Faculty Award

(2011) and the Distinguished Teaching Award (2008) from the CEHD, and the Matthew Stark Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Faculty Award (2010). Bigelow has authored or co-authored numerous books and articles. As a published researcher in the field of second language learning, her research focuses on building language teachers' (such as Mandarin language teachers') content knowledge in second language acquisition as well as teaching strategies.

As a professor, Bigelow instructs, advises, and guides Ph.D. candidates in the Second Languages and Cultures (SLC) Education track. This track focuses on the study of language use, teaching, learning, and policy. The Ph.D. program is designed to prepare scholars to engage in thoughtful research in the field of language education in order to assume roles as faculty members, researchers, policy makers and educational leaders.

In this capacity, Ph.D. graduates – including scholars from China and Taiwan – are well positioned to make important contributions to the field of second language learning nationally and internationally. In addition to these research-focused programs, Bigelow's program offers teachers the preparation to become licensed in 15 different languages, Mandarin Chinese being one of those languages.

Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota named "Institute of the Year"

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota was named a 2011 Confucius Institute of the Year by the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters. Qijie Li, assistant director, accepted the honor on behalf of the Institute at a ceremony in Beijing, China, on Dec. 12.



Qijie Li, assistant director, accepted the honor on behalf of the Institute

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota was one of just four U.S. Confucius Institutes that received the award. Hanban supports nearly 400 Confucius Institutes worldwide and awarded 30 Institute of the Year honors in 2011.

"We are honored by this award and delighted that Hanban has chosen to recognize the good work of the Confucius Institute, the Confucius Classrooms and the Mandarin programs in Minnesota's schools," said Confucius Institute Director Joan Brzezinski. "We look forward to our continued collaboration with schools, administrators, students and teachers to bring Chinese language and culture to Minnesota."

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota promotes the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota. It is a collaborative initiative between the University of Minnesota, the Hanban/Con-

fucius Institute Headquarters, and Capital Normal University in Beijing.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota was honored thanks to its commitment to promoting Chinese language and cultural teaching programs among students from preschool to 12th grade. The institute was recognized for its efforts in increasing the number of students learning Chinese in Minnesota. The number of students learning Chinese in Minnesota has doubled since 2008 when the institute opened. The institute was also spotlighted for organizing and administering the Youth Chinese Test in Minnesota's Mandarin immersions schools, which achieved a 100 percent passing rate for levels one and three in 2011.

"The Institute [at the University of Minnesota] has accumulated unique and successful experience in developing and managing Confucius Classrooms [grants] and provides a brand new perspective in teaching Chinese language for children," said the Hanban on its website.

The Institute provides language- and culture-learning opportunities for elementary students, high school students and business professionals and professional development and networking opportunities for educators. Its resource center houses an extensive collection of Chinese language textbooks and supplementary materials including workbooks, CDs, software and flashcards that are available to the public. There is also a selection of Chinese films, television programs and serials and many bilingual books about Chinese culture on topics such as Chinese cities, cooking, literature, travel and philosophy. Spring Chinese language classes will begin in February.

Learn more about the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota by visiting <http://confucius.umn.edu> ■

The State of Minnesota and the U.S. government are very supportive of Mandarin language teaching, explains Bigelow. At the local level, parents are interested in enrolling their children in Mandarin programs, including Mandarin Chinese immersion schools, taking Mandarin as a school day course, and after school classes. Bigelow's program works with the MDE (Minnesota Department of Education) in recommending teachers for licensure for these programs.

At the Federal level, for three years the U.S. Department of Defense has awarded the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota a STARTALK grant. Startalk is part of the National Security Language Initiative to expand national capacity in critical languages. This federally funded program supports Chinese language teacher training to educate more capable Mandarin Chinese language teachers for the state of Minnesota as well as other states. This teacher training program has focused on how to integrate culture with proficiency-oriented Chinese language instruction. Aptly named, "Culture as Core", the class integrates culture as the core in foreign language instruction, based on the cross-cultural communication theory through proficiency oriented teaching methods. Chinese teachers explore awareness of culture as an essential component in foreign language instruction, teaching materials and assessment. As the final outcome of this program, each Chinese teacher designs

a Chinese language curriculum module integrating culture as the core. The participants speak very highly of the training, and consider it as one of the best teacher training programs they have ever attended.

As one of four instructors in this training program, Bigelow says that Chinese language teachers learn how to teach Chinese in a Western context. In addition to learning how to teach Chinese, they also explore how to interact successfully with parents in US schools and in classrooms with a great deal of diversity. The teachers look at how to embrace diversity in both China and the United States.

Working in collaboration, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), The Confucius Institute, Minnesota parents and students, University of Minnesota teacher education, and CARLA (Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition – also at the University of Minnesota) all support Mandarin Chinese teacher development.

The synergy of these five groups working together has developed a reputation of important scholarship for Chinese language education in the State of Minnesota. Visiting scholars come from across the globe to Minnesota to learn about Chinese language pedagogy. "We are learning a lot about Chinese literacy and getting help with what is particular and unique about Chinese literacy

Dr. Bigelow continues on Page 14

The evolution of Chinese adoption over the years

By Will Ahern, Staff Writer

Over the past 10 years, 52,759 children have been adopted from China by families in the United States. As a proud father of an adopted child from China who is almost 14, the experience has been incredible. For many parents, adoption is the only way to build their families and for others, adoption is a loving way to extend it.

Ten years ago adoption from China was still a smooth and relatively quick process. After a rigorous home study that checked into all aspects of your life, your packet was delivered to the CCAA (China Center of Adoption Affairs) to be logged in and soon matched with a child with no known health issues. I recall it was between 6 and 9 months later that you received your referral and off to China you went to receive your newest family member.

Fast forward to 2012 and things have really changed. In 2011, 2,587 Chinese were adopted in the United States. In contrast to the peak year of 2005, which saw the adoption of 7,903 Chinese children. Families completing their adoption of a healthy child in 2011 have waited often frustratingly five and a half years. By some estimates, a family seeking a healthy child from China starting today might wait 11 years!

China's booming economy, affluence and an apparent diminishing of the stigma

of adoption have made domestic Chinese adoption a strong option. According to Snow Wu, President/CEO of Great Wall China Adoptions, "The rise of domestic adoptions in China, and families' ability to pay for the penalty in order to have more than one child reduces the children available for U.S. adoption." Happily this finds more homes for children in their home country. Snow further states "China adoption will not cease except that the adoptions will be focused on finding homes for children with special needs or children aged 8 to 13".

Children that have special needs are still waiting to be adopted in China. Some of these needs include relatively minor and correctable situations as well as children with more profound needs. According to Molly Rochan at the Children's Home Society of Minnesota, "When parents come to us for an adoption we strongly encourage them to be open to a special needs child." Parents willing to accept a child with special needs or a waiting child might travel to China in within a year after their application is accepted by the CCAA. ■

More information can be found at: Great Wall China Adoption: <http://gwca.org>

Children's Home Society: www.chsfs.org

Dance and sing in the New Year

By Elizabeth Greenberg, Staff Writer

When I went to see the Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center (TCCDC) 2012 Chinese New Year Celebration Show, I certainly wasn't expecting world class Italian opera.

I did expect more music than the name would indicate. Music was everywhere in China: on the train between Beijing and Chengdu, I saw a man pull out a violin and begin playing folk tunes. What seemed like half the people in the train started singing along. More than once I'd gone to see a presentation on Chinese media or geography at Grinnell College and had it end with a singing performance. But I expected an evening of mostly dance, with maybe a few musical and instrumental numbers. What I got was something very different.

I was honestly a little apprehensive as the evening opened. The ushers ran out of programs well before every audience member was in the auditorium: I had to borrow my program from the kind gentleman sitting next to me. The first number, a full-ensemble piece, began with a soloist doing a truly impressive backbend, but I got the impression the company was made up of stellar dancers who weren't really used to dancing together as a group. Furthermore, there was a voiceover in Chinese that was never translated: while I understood it, I was afraid that it signified that the show would be inaccessible to the crowd members who didn't speak Mandarin.

All of my initial apprehensions proved incredibly ill-founded. A pair of emcees introduced each number in both English and Chinese, and every small group and solo piece was fantastic. The dancers ranged in age—there was an incredibly adorable small children's number called 你可喜欢我—and each choreography was skillfully

executed and physically challenging. The dance forms ranged from traditional Miao to ballet to fusion, and the use of props and costumes was complex and imaginative: I was particularly fond of the Paper-Cut Girls number and of the unusual use of fans. The one thing I could have done with less of was the fog machine: it felt like half of the numbers started with fog.

But that's just the dance portion of the show. Nearly half of the numbers were musical numbers, most of them vocal but a few instrumental. I was blown away by the quality of the musicians in the show. Not only did the TCCDC book Jinxing Zhou and Guilan Ying, two China National Class One Performers, but the show also featured several local artists who could hold their own with them. I was especially impressed by tenor Shaohua Zhou's performance of Drum Beats from the Northwest Plateau. I was a little bewildered by the amount of Italian opera in the show—the Zhou and Ying did several Puccini and Verdi solo and duet numbers—but it was unsurprisingly wonderful.

I was impressed enough by the show that I actually went to the website to see if the TCCDC offered any adult-level ballet classes I could take. (They do not. But they do offer a number of adult classes: Chinese, Latin, Exercise, and Body Toning.) I'll definitely be going to see this group the next opportunity I have. ■



Holiday party celebrates five different anniversaries

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer



Award recipients

At a recent holiday party held at the Hotel Sofitel in Edina, Minn, a number of anniversaries were celebrated by the hosts, Dr. Steven Shu and his wife Lorna.

The evening festivities began with registration and a social hour before the guests were seated in the banquet room and greeted by the evening's MC, Bonnie, who began the program by announcing that dinner will begin immediately with soup and salad being served at the table and then everyone would help themselves buffet-style. Dessert would not be a problem, since there were already individual plates of 4 assorted pastries for each guest placed on the table.

As the dinner progressed, Bonnie introduced Dr. Shu to deliver his keynote speech.



Dr Shu

Dr. Shu began his speech by thanking his guests for coming to his holiday party to help him celebrate the first anniversary of the One Stop Charity Fund, the second anniversary of the Shu Cosmetic Surgery Institute, the third anniversary of the One Stop Medical Center, the fifth anniversary of Minnesota Times and the twentieth anniversary of their arrival in the United States. As if he hasn't accomplished enough, he announced the launch of a new concept, Medspa, and has moved into a new, modern facility.

Throughout his speech, Dr. Shu expressed his gratitude to his family, friends, staff and clients and how fortunate he is that he was afforded the opportunities to pursue success in this country and why he feels it

only appropriate that he gives back in any way he can and stated that "you should give back more than you receive."

Following Dr. Shu's presentation, Bonnie then began the entertainment phase of the program as she introduced Daniel Lai and Lisa Wu who danced the cha-cha and the rumba followed later on with the waltz with Jack Tsai doing a comedy piece in between.

Jenny Sun, president of Minnesota Times, made a brief speech about the newspaper's progress and was joined by Dr. Sun who thanked Jenny for all her hard work and efforts to make the Minnesota Times a leading Chinese-language newspaper while improving its website and that there were plans to even add a TV station to their media enterprise within the next 5 years.

Bonnie then introduced pop singer Liangsheng Cheng to sing a song but was prompted by the gathering to perform an encore.

Next on the agenda was a poem recitation by Eric Gong. Why a poem recitation? This is something else we learned about Dr. Shu. He wrote the poem that was recited by Eric which was spoken both in English and then in Chinese.

As for giving back to the community as noted by Dr. Shu in his opening comments, grants were then announced by his One Stop Charity Fund. According to Dr. Shu there were 9 applications submitted and 5 were selected by the Funds board of directors and were presented by Dr. Shu and his wife Lorna. The Minnesota International Chinese School and the Minnesota Minghua Chinese School each received US\$1,000, with the Minnesota Chinese Health Center and the Chinese Social Service Center each receiving US\$2,000 and US\$4,000 awarded to the Chinese Academic & Professional Association of Minnesota.

Closing the evening's entertainment program was a performance by soprano Qian Xu and the gathering was not satisfied with just one song so she also performed an encore number.

Although the formal program ended, that didn't mean an end of the evening since the party continued with the DJ continuing to provide music for dancing and the bar remained open for more socializing. ■

Asian Pacific American Media Coalition challenges TV networks to create Asian American stars in next three years

LOS ANGELES—Concerned with the slow progress of TV networks in the area of diversity casting, the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC) has released its 2011 report cards grading the networks' past 2010-2011 season while simultaneously challenging ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC to cast at least one Asian Pacific American actor as the main star in a TV show within the next three years.

"Since APAMC began meeting with the networks in late 1999, only two new shows have starred Asian Pacific Americans (APAs)," said co-chairs Guy Aoki and Marilyn Tokuda in a Coalition statement, "'Cashmere Mafia' with Lucy Liu and 'Dance War: Bruno vs. Carrie Ann (Inaba),' both on ABC. We believe that, without a timetable, the networks will never confront the perceived obstacles to using APAs as the faces of their series. So we have issued a challenge that within three years--by the Fall of 2014--they air a series which stars at least one APA clearly cast as the central character (the star's name usually appears first in the credits when they aren't listed alphabetically)."

For example, the star of "Parks and Recreation" is Amy Poehler, not Aziz Ansari.

The Coalition challenge included a further condition: "Because many actors are part-Asian Pacific and viewers are unaware of what their heritage is, we always encourage the networks to make it clear within the context of their shows that the character is Asian Pacific. However, if all we end up getting are stars who are part-APA but don't look it and who don't play recognizably APA roles, then the goal of more meaningful inclusion will not have been reached."

Last year, the total number of APA regulars amongst the top four networks jumped from 32 to 38--an all-time high. This past season, that number dropped to 31.

Overall, NBC, with a B (up from a B-), ranked highest in this year's APAMC report cards, which marks the 10th anniversary of judging the inclusion of APAs in eight categories: actors, unscripted show

participants, writers/producers, directors, development, procurement, executives, and network initiatives.

No other network has ever received this high a grade from the coalition. Out of 12 report cards since 2000, NBC has received the highest overall grade 8 times (5 of them ties with other networks). This past season, the peacock network also had the highest grade for actors, development deals, and writers/producers, and tied for top honors in procurement, executives, and diversity initiatives.

CBS maintained a B- for the third year, ABC slid from B- to C+. Fox fell from C+ to C-, the worst network grade since CBS received the same rating in 2005.

"Last season, NBC had 13 regulars of Asian Pacific descent (boosted by five regulars on 'Outsourced'," Aoki stated. "This was the highest number any network has been able to achieve in the 11 years the Coalition has released report cards. Accordingly, we have issued our highest grade in the actors category ever, a B+. NBC is the only network to receive this high a grade, which they also received in 2004."

According to the APAMC report, between 2006 and 2008, ABC either had the highest number of APA regulars or tied for that distinction. But ABC's record has declined noticeably since then. This past season, ABC could claim only 5 regulars and 4 recurring characters, their exact numbers in 2005. Of all four networks, ABC received the lowest grade in the actors category, a D+.

The day after the new "Hawaii Five-0" debuted in September of 2010, the APAMC encouraged CBS to hire writers and actors from Hawaii in order to truly capture the essence of the people of that state.

"We have been disappointed that most of the APAs used are as suspects or villains and increasingly, most of the guest stars—who often get more screen time than regulars Daniel Dae Kim, Grace Park and Masi Oka—are white and from the mainland," Aoki said. A meeting with CBS has been

set to address these concerns.

ABC scored best in the unscripted series category for the fourth consecutive year. Since 2008, the network has featured APAs in many of their unscripted series, including Carrie Ann Inaba as a judge on "Dancing With the Stars."

CBS made the biggest improvement in reality shows, jumping from a C- to a B- for its profiles of two Asian American CEOs in "Undercover Boss" and many contestants on "The Amazing Race" and "Live to Dance."

"The networks have always struggled with using APA directors on their shows," said Coalition co-chair Tokuda, reporting that Fox had the highest number (11) of APAs directing a total of 28 episodes. Except for one episode of "Traffic Light," however, all of those shows were animated. Still, Fox earned the biggest grade improvement in any category this past season, jumping from a D- to a B-.

However, Fox had no development deals with APAs, receiving an F in that category, as well as an F/Incomplete for its failure to report verified procurement data (they have promised to provide this in the near future). The network also received the lowest grade for diversity initiatives (C-), as the head of the Diversity department left in October of last year and the entire team was eventually dismantled. Fox is now taking a different approach with its "Audience Strategy" department, and we look forward to seeing whether its promising new diversity initiatives bear more fruit at the network than have past efforts.

The Coalition singled out CBS President Nina Tassler, praising her for convening a second meeting with her show runners and the APAMC to discuss ways to include more people of color (POC) in their series. In the 2011-2012 season, CBS will have at least 10 APA regulars, the highest in its history. Unfortunately, this includes the heavy-accented restaurant owner played by Matthew Moy in "2 Broke Girls," which many in the community feel sets back the cause. Fox's numbers

also look better for this new season with the inclusion of three Asian Indian/half-Asian Indian regulars as part of the main family on "Terra Nova." Also, the network once again includes an Asian American doctor—played by Charlene Yi—in "House."

Despite losing five regulars on the now-cancelled "Outsourced," NBC only slipped from 13 to 12 as it included 7 new API regulars on 7 new series.

Although the road to reflecting reality has been an ongoing challenge, since the 1999/2000 meetings, the networks have implemented many initiatives to increase the presence of POC before and behind the camera. Although the programs do not guarantee employment, they provide access and a means to getting a foot in the door in areas POC have historically been denied.

APAs have gained ground as writers, with some elevated to producers, co-producers and executive producers on such series as "ER," "Lost," "NCIS: Los Angeles," "Prison Break," "Law & Order: SVU," "Bones," "Medium," "The Walking Dead" and "Body of Proof."

"For actors," Tokuda stated, "winning a place in the network showcases is like harnessing the brass ring. The exposure can lead to solid agency representation, multiple auditions and, in some cases, an ongoing mentorship with casting executives. People like Carrie Ann Inaba ("Dancing with the Stars") and Liza Lapira (21, "Traffic Light") were discovered in the showcases."

Graduates of directors programs have gone on to direct shows like NBC's "Community" and the Julia Roberts film *Fireflies in the Garden*.

The Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC) has agreements with ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX, committing them to work to increase diversity on-screen and behind the camera. APAMC members include such organizations as East-West Players, Japanese American Citizens League, Media Action Network for Asian Americans, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, and Visual Communications. ■

Ten years of media, but what's next for CCTV?

By Anthony James, Staff Writer

If you were tuning in the weekend of Jan. 22 you might have caught a very popular television program. No, I'm not referring to the NFC/AFC Championship games, or the Golden Globes, the Oscars, or any other American Award show. This yearly program tops any American Idol finale or final World Series pitch as it is watched all across the globe to celebrate the beginning of the Chinese Lunar Year. Hosted on the national news channel, CCTV, the spring gala this year hailed the beginning of the year of the Dragon and welcomed performances from many national superstars as well as western celebrities such as Warren Buffet. The program has become a yearly tradition in Chinese homes as television access has

skyrocketed in the past 2 decades; in 2007, research found that over 800 million people watch the program worldwide.

For families in China and around the world the program is a long-running tradition heralding the beginning of the Spring Festival. Customary performances by comedians, singers, and dancers highlight the event as well as a world-record-breaking new tradition: an astounding 481,207 messages were posted on the twitter-like Weibo in the first minute after midnight. The access to media and, specifically, television has not always been as easy in the world's most populated country. With the growing reach of China's economic influence in the world, its media leaders are also looking to extend

a Chinese perspective to a more American demographic.

China's premiere information and media network, CCTV, has enjoyed a success and unprecedented popularity in China in the past ten years. Contrasting from a decade earlier when there were only 19.5 television sets per hundred people, in 2002 it was reported that the estimated audience of CCTV was 1.15 billion. By 2005, 94.4 percent of the Chinese population had television access, a sharp growth compared to the fact that the initial initiative to reach all Chinese citizens through broadcasting first started in the sixties under Mao Zedong.

For China's media executives, their sights are not set on the milestones of the past but rather for opportunities in the future: influencing western audiences. While China-based stations such as CCTV News and CNC World are already being broadcast in the United States, their efforts have been hampered by cultural mistranslations and lack of advertising backing. The third

try, Today China, will be another hope of China's government of propelling the dream of having a Chinese based station that could compete globally with CNN or Al Jazeera English. Initially airing in New York City, the digitally accessible station will air English and Chinese programs with subtitles with the hopes of wielding a greater cultural presence outside of China's borders.

Events like the Lunar Year Gala have proven that China's media can embed a rich and long standing among Chinese across the globe. With the past decade as example, China's state-run media companies are looking to expand their horizons to cultures and languages outside their own. With economic prosperity and entrance of western influences, President Hu Jintao hopes that a worldwide network will preserve Chinese ideology and culture. Whether their third attempt is successful remains to be seen. ■

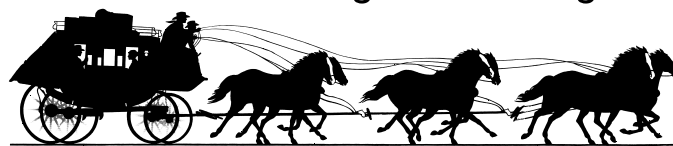
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Minnesota International Chinese School holds Chinese New Year celebration at Chanhassen High

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

An inaugural Chinese New Year celebration was held at Chanhassen High School located in the southwest suburb of Minneapolis that was hosted by School District 112 and organized by the Minnesota International Chinese School (MICS). The goal of this event was to bring the Chinese community together and let the children have fun thus the emphasis was on a dragon carnival that featured such diverse activities as sand art, ping pong, face painting, fortune telling, and even free legal, cosmetic and health consultation for the adults. Over 30 different organizations participated.

The celebration began with a traditional lion dance that included three different lions that snaked their way throughout the carnival area that normally serves as the cafeteria for the high school. If the children weren't busy at the inflatable moon walk, they could watch martial arts demonstrations on the stage or participate in the many activities.

Naturally, no Chinese celebration would be complete without food so a separate food court area featured five different local Asian restaurants that offered some holiday treats in addition to the typical food you would expect.

After a few hours of these activities the crowd was lead into a separate theatre housed in the 2-year-old high school by the lion troupe were they were able to settle into comfortable theatre-style seats to enjoy the celebration performance.

The entertainment included a real eclectic variety that included a nationalistic number sung by a visiting Beijing education delegation and non-traditional Chinese performances as ballroom dancing and a burlesque routine that were however very well done. The more traditional entertainment featured a number of dance performances, Guzheng (musical instrument), songs by individuals and chorus along with Chinese opera. Students of Chinese language from School District 112 and MICS were also able to showcase their Mandarin skills by performing various songs in Chinese.

Although the children were not able to win any prizes by fulfilling any requirements of completing activities, there were three separate drawings for various door prizes during the performances. Unfortunately the drawings added to the two hour show (no intermission) however it appears everyone had a good time. ■



Minnetonka School District celebrates Chinese New Year of the Dragon

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

The hallways of the student union and other spaces at Minnetonka High School were recently transformed with hanging red lanterns and other decorations so that there was a festive mood to help the community celebrate the Chinese New Year with traditional activities that focused

on history and culture.

The celebration was held on a Friday evening and began at 5 p.m. when the school was opened with food service immediately available that was provided by two local Chinese restaurants that offered a variety of dishes and beverages for everyone to enjoy throughout the evening that concluded at 8 p.m.

The student union area was set up as a marketplace that featured a number of vendors that offered a variety of merchandise, games, arts and crafts along with a few educational services and performance organizations.

Also scattered among the student area



were activities like ping pong, face painting and lion mask photographs.

The gym was the site of a variety of teacher prepared activities that included fishing for Chinese characters, lantern making, paper cutting, Chinese calligraphy and dragon drawing. To take advantage of the bleachers for seating the hundreds of people that attended, the entertainment program also took place in this area.

The entertainment program started at 6

p.m. and began with a lion dance. Many of the students enrolled in the Minnetonka Chinese immersion program performed song and dance numbers that were interspersed among kung fu demonstrations and dance performances by the Twin City Chinese Dance Center.

Children were able to earn prizes by getting their "I speak Chinese" cards stamped at any of the booths or activities when they speak Chinese. ■

Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai to perform *Shanghai Tango* at its Minnesota debut as China's only independent dance company



China's most celebrated dancer, Jin Xing (directly translated as "golden star"), and her company Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai, will showcase a retrospective of 10 of her best works over the last 25 years, featuring lavish onstage environments and a feast for the senses. Though not actually tango, *Shanghai Tango* showcases a contemporary Shanghai, a blend of east and west in dance, costumes, and music that mixes passions and cultures from both the past and the future.

Jin Xing's courage, fighting spirit, and beautiful artistry have contributed to her great success as a ballerina, owner of China's only independent dance company, and the first legally recognized transgender woman in China. Her choreography is graceful, subtle, and filled with visual appeal. Performed to rave reviews in Europe, this event is part of a three-year exchange with arts leaders across the country showcasing Chinese culture.

Shanghai Tango is an overview of Jin Xing's artistic work from the last 25 years and presents a mix of East and West in dance as well as in the choice of music and cos-

tumes. Like the tango, Jin Xing's choreography has grace, subtlety, and visual appeal. The production embraces 10 choreographic works, including *Halfdream*, for which Jin Xing received the best choreographer award at the American Dance Festival in 1991, and *Black and Red*, winner of the 1998 China Cultural Ministry Award for Modern Art.

The production's title is taken from a piece by Jin Xing that was inspired by a Chinese folk tale about a mother divided between her husband and her lover. The dance is not actually tango, although the music by Astor Piazzolla provides a distinct tango influence. *Shanghai Tango* offers a glimpse of contemporary Shanghai, a mix of passions and cultures between the past and the future.

East and West blend in the final scene when the girls, in ample costumes with long, full skirts, spin to the accompaniment of a Strauss waltz while the boys, in white uniforms similar to those of the Red Guards from China's Cultural Revolution, move around the stage on bicycles.

Founded in 1999 as China's first independent modern dance company, Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai has come to embody and expand on its leader's artistic vision. The company has sustained international recognition for outstanding artistry with performances throughout the world, including appearances at festivals such as the Adelaide Festival in Australia, La Biennale di Venezia in Italy, Dance Umbrella London in the U.K., ImPulsTanz Vienna in Austria, and Steps in Switzerland.

Jin Xing started her remarkable life

journey in 1967 in Shenyang in Liaoning province. She was born male to parents from the country's Korean minority at a time when China was caught in the throes of the Cultural Revolution. At the age of nine, she managed to enroll in the famous military dance ensemble in Shenyang, whose teacher belonged to the top of classic ballet in China. Since then Jin Xing's history reads like row after row of superlatives.

At the age of 17, Jin Xing received the Best Dancer of China Award. At 19 she became the first Chinese dancer to win a grant in New York from the Asian Cultural Council of America and the American Dance Festival. Amongst others, she studied with Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and José Limón. In 1991 she won the "Best Choreographer Award" of the American Dance Festival for her creation *Halfdream*. Jin Xing then decided to move to Europe for educational visits and appearances with various ensembles in Rome and Brussels. In 1993 after a total of six years in the western world Jin Xing returned to China where she became teacher for the National Choreography and Modern Dance Training workshops commissioned by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. That year, Jin Xing also elected to have sexual reassignment surgery, the first such operation to be officially approved by Chinese authorities.

In 1994 Jin Xing resigned as Colonel from the Chinese military dance company. This move out of the Chinese establishment didn't slow her down. On the contrary; she continued her successful career with the creation *Black and Red* that received the

Ministry of Culture award—the first time this award was given to a contemporary dance performance. In the beginning of 1996 she launched the Beijing Modern Dance Ensemble, the first modern dance troupe in Beijing.



She has led her own ensemble since 1999, the Jin Xing Dance Theatre, relocated to Shanghai in 2000. It is the country's first independent modern dance and performing group. With excellent productions like *Shanghai Tango*, *Carmina Burana*, *Shanghai Beauty*, the solo dance creation *The Closest The Furthest*, and her latest work *The China Project*, the company has been much acclaimed both nationally and internationally with appearances at festivals such as Adelaide Festival, La Biennale di Venezia, Dance Umbrella London, ImPulsTanz Vienna, and Steps in Switzerland. Besides her achievements in the field of dance, Jin Xing confirmed her versatile talent as a jazz singer and with leading roles in theatre plays and movies.

Following her mission to develop the culture in her home country, Jin Xing **Shanghai Tango continues on Page 15**

NORTHROP MOVES

2011|12 DANCE

MINNESOTA DEBUT JIN XING DANCE THEATRE SHANGHAI

Sat, Feb 18, 8:00 pm
Orpheum Theatre

Shanghai Tango

China's most celebrated dancer, Jin Xing, and her company Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai, showcase a retrospective of 10 of her best works over the last 25 years, featuring lavish onstage environments and a feast for the senses.

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A CONVERSATION WITH JIN XING (Free)
Copresented with Institute for Advanced Study
Thu, Feb 16, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
125 Nolte Center for Education, U of M Campus

PERFORMANCE PREVIEW (Free)
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Ancient towns struggle to keep their serenity

By Zhu Hong, *China Today*

Thanks to the recent travel boom, formally sleepy little ancient towns like Pingyao, Zhouzhuang, Fenghuang and Lijiang have awakened their status as must-see destinations. Millions of tourists from home and abroad have brought these towns fame and fortune, but some feel they may have also taken their traditional tranquility away.

Fenghuang Marred by Over-development

It was a disappointing scene that Qiu Yijiao encountered on her eagerly awaited trip to Fenghuang. As a resident of Beijing, Qiu Yijiao had been looking forward to getting out of the big city and spending some quiet leisure time in this small southern town. Home to the Miao and Tujia ethnic groups, Fenghuang, or literally “Phoenix,” is well known for its mix of cultures, a town where time once stood still, preserving life as it had been for over 300 years. Rewi Alley, a well-known writer from New Zealand, called it one of the most beautiful towns in China.

But now the [almost 10-foot-wide] cobblestone streets are overrun by tourists and their guides. The sounds of bargain hunters and guides’ shouting through speakers now fill the air and grate on nerves. Shops along the streets are replete with cheap generic souvenirs that you can buy anywhere. Even more heartbreaking to Qiu was that many of the houses on stilts, the traditional wooden dwellings that line the riverside, have been knocked down to make way for two or three-story brick family inns to accommodate the influx of tourists. Steel-and-cement construction has mushroomed up among the ancient neighborhoods, though concealed under an unconvincing archaic veneer. When the sun goes down, some of the remaining ancient houses became noisy bars, tourist hangouts. “Absolutely different from my expectations,” Qiu’s mood sounded low,

“it’s more like a mini Las Vegas.”

Thronged of travelers and the ubiquitous commercialism have drained the tranquility from Fenghuang. This phenomenon is affecting many other similar towns, turning folksy locals into shrewd businesspeople, and replacing precious historical sites with faux ancient construction. This is a tragedy that has become a concern for many people intent on protecting the authentic heritage.

Qianyang, Still the Middle of Nowhere

Traveling to the town of Qianyang still requires a difficult four-hour drive along a steep valley road from Fenghuang. Qiu was excited to be able to finally lose herself in this remote town; it compared well with the busy and noisy one she had just left.

In this 2,200-year-old town, the paint covering its wooden houses has long since faded. High white walls, tilted ridges and windows with intricate carvings seem as old as time. The residents are mostly elders, as young people have almost all left their sleepy hometown in search of the opportunities and modern conveniences offered by city life. They still live in the homes built by their great grandfathers, caring for their grandchildren. They live their lives the way they always have, here in their birthplace. They prefer to wash their clothes or vegetables out on the patio, or to play chess and gossip with neighbors in the yard. Qianyang has retained its serenity; rarely are there any signs of commercialism apart from the occasional peddlers hawking their goods.

Situated in steep mountains, Qianyang is out of the reach of modern transportation systems, and the economic prosperity seen in many neighboring areas has passed it over. With low economic activity, the local government can hardly afford to maintain the town the way it would like to. Some of the old buildings teeter on the verge of col-

lapse. Wires poorly installed decades ago now dangle wildly in the streets overhead, dividing the sky like a broken spider’s web. Dirty coal is piled in the corner of yards. Locals have knocked down many historical houses, unaware of their intrinsic cultural value.

The emerging travel and leisure market tempts town fathers as they plot a course to develop local tourism. Tourism is the key to Qianyang’s survival and development, goes the argument. “The income raised could be used to protect the inherited structures and culture,” rationalized Yi Qiming, vice director of the local tourism bureau. “Hard-up residents would be able to earn a stable income renting their old houses once they are restored, bringing renewed attention to a town in decline.” However, the restoration costs are daunting, not mention the logistics of reversing the damage done if the town is modernized haphazardly.

Wuzhen Sets Its Own Course

Yi Qiming is beset with a question: how do you save the unique characteristics of a town while developing its tourism potential? To solve it, he began researching several comparable towns.

Wuzhen in East China’s Zhejiang Province provided a good case study. It didn’t over-exploit its niche advantages or purge all commercial channels. Wuzhen remains a favorite spot for many, and its successful experience has been termed the Wuzhen Model by the United Nations.

It took almost seven years to develop an infrastructure for tourism in the [two-square-mile] town. All electrical and telecom lines had to be buried underground, and construction of a modern sewer system completed. Every household was given a stipend to install indoor plumbing, and the riverbeds were thoroughly dredged. Every element of

the ancient streets and structures had to be painstakingly renovated on a case-by-case basis according to historical records. Some restorations were even redone as new source materials were discovered. Management of the project has been systematic and orderly. Commercial boats were fully equipped with all safety devices. Sales of chewing gum were outlawed, and stores were advised to take unique local product lines to maintain regional distinction. “Other towns aim solely on developing tourism, but for us it is only a means to an end,” said Chen Xianghong, president of Wuzhen Tourism Development Co., Ltd. “I want to create a town that is appealing as a tourist-friendly dwelling area.”

“Detailed and integrated planning is necessary for protecting and developing these ancient towns,” said Dai Bin, deputy director of the China Tourism Academy. In fact, the planning referred not only to the restoration of old buildings, but also to many issues that arise during the post-development and operations period; raising capital, attracting investment, relocating residents and managing operating costs are all part of the picture.

Qianyang recently invited several tourism specialists and experts in history and folk customs to discuss its current plan. “Forming a good strategy, executing it efficiently, and preserving the town during the development – these are all difficult tasks,” said Yi. “But we have been making efforts to resolve them to everyone’s satisfaction.”

After wandering around Qianyang, Qiu Yijiao began to fall in love with this quaint little town. “Let’s see if I feel the same when I return in a couple of years. My hope is that the pace of development is such that this area remains all it has been in the past.” ■
Source: *China Today* www.chinatoday.com.cn

Charater Study: 福 fú good fortune

By Jodi Yim James, *Staff Writer*

The Chinese character 福fú means Good Fortune or Blessings. 福fú is one of the most popular Chinese characters and it is used to decorate everywhere during the celebration of the Chinese New Year. 福fú is also commonly posted artistically on a permanent plaque or framed painting inside homes with the intended message of “Blessings” or “Bless This House.”

During the Chinese New Year, this character is often painted in gold with a red background in the center of a red paper square that is poised on a point, like a diamond shape. This diamond-shaped square is then hung upside down on the front door of a building, or at the entrance of a home. There are several stories that explain this custom and its significance in Chinese culture.

Perhaps you have seen during the New Year and throughout the year a dilapidated place on a run-down street with a 福fú sign always hung upside down. Perhaps you imagine that the 福fú sign fell down and was put back up accidentally upside down in a careless manner. However, in the folklore of 福fú, the character landing upside down

by accident is not part of the story.

To understand the 福fú sign hung upside-down, one must reflect on both the spoken and written Chinese language. Chinese language and lore is full of plays on words or puns. Chinese is packed with multiple meanings and nuance because the spoken language has so few sounds. There are actually about 400 total pronounced syllables in the first place, which can then have about one in four tones each.

This provides the occasion for much play and linguistic frolicking. There are many occasions for re-interpretation, mis-interpretation, or multiple interpretations. Semantics becomes a game of astute understanding of all of the diverse and various nuances of sounds and pronunciations or most of all, knowledge of the intended written characters. In this context, the idea that the Chinese would abandon written characters for a phonetic pronunciation writing system only, would actually be complete folly. The written characters, of which there are tens of thousands, clarify the intended meaning of what is being said.

On a serious note, perhaps this is why my late husband who was born in China, (Chinese being his first written and spoken language), lived by the mantra, “Never listen to what a person says. Always watch what they do. Therein lies the truth; the reality is in what you see, not what you hear.”

However, in the context of word frolic and fun, the upside-down sign is a play on words with 福fú. Along with the sign comes the pronouncement of the good wish 福到了, fú dào le, or “Fortune has arrived.” However, the sound fú dào le can also be written as 福倒了, which literally means “fortune upside down”. Therefore 福到了 or “fortune has arrived” happens to sound just like 福倒了 fú dào le, or “fortune upside down”. And that is why 福fú is turned upside-down on doorways across the country.

Students of Chinese characters often give fresh interpretations to characters. They may see a breakdown of 福fú into several parts that signify having nice clothes, a nice house, a good job, good food, and money in the bank. In contrast, old folklore tells the

story of a rich man holding a bottle of wine, which was then indicated in the character as a sign of wealth and happiness. Rice wine was served in celebration of a good rice harvest. Other interpretations indicate five life treasures: health, wealth, good fortune, long life, and tranquility.

However one would like to imagine good fortune, the character 福fú is posted everywhere during Chinese New Year, signifying “Bless this House”. May you experience 福fú in 2012, the Year of the Dragon, and now may you fully understand the upside-down posting of 福fú. ■

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A Tea Village Tour

By Zhang Xueying, *China Today*

In most Chinese tea villages, March is the time of year in which locals start to pick and process tea. The usually tranquil villages suddenly become bustling centers of activity, as people take out special tools and prepare for tea processing. In some villages, local residents hold traditional ceremonies, thanking heaven for its blessing. The price of tea picked in March is extremely high because it is fresh, tender and contains multiple trace elements.

China has been famous for tea production since ancient times. Of the goods transported and traded along the Old Silk Road linking China to the Middle East and Europe, the importance of tea was matched only by silk. China produces Oolong, black, green, white, yellow and dark (aka post-fermented) tea. The Oolong, green and black varieties are most notable for their high quality.

Most of China's tea villages are found in remote mountainous areas in the country's south and southwest, where the beautiful scenery is often hidden under clouds.

Pu'er from Xishuangbanna of Yunnan Province

The folk customs of the Dai people and the charming natural beauty of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China have long made the area a tourist mecca. In recent years, with Pu'er tea becoming increasingly popular, tourists have started including the Six Famous Tea Mountains in their itineraries, as well as other tea-related spots such as Jinghong, Yiwu, Xiangming, Mansai and Mengyang.

The Six Famous Tea Mountains represent the splendid history of Pu'er, dating back thousands of years. The peaks are six conjoint mountains with a height of around [3,300 feet] above sea level. In the flourishing forests at around [2,640 feet] above sea level, many wild tea trees can be found. It is said that the [8,000-square-mile] area is the origin of all the world's tea trees, and since the mid-20th century, the oldest known tea trees in the world have been successively discovered here. A tree some 3,200 years old is now known to exist.

Legend has it that tea produced in Xishuangbanna was first traded before the Qin Dynasty – that is, before 221 BC. However, the earliest historical records of tea trade in the area date from the Tang Dynasty (618-907). At that time, tea was mainly sold to the Central Plains area around the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River; the areas south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, including southern Jiangsu and Anhui provinces and northern Zhejiang Province; Sichuan Province; Tibet; and India. From the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) to the middle of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Pu'er tea underwent a boom as it gained a reputation as the tribute tea of choice for the nobility in the imperial palace. In the yard of the Che Family home in Yiwu County, there is still a board inscribed with four characters, “Rui gong tian chao.” These characters were inscribed by an emperor in the mid-19th century, and mean “Divine Tribute to the Kingdom of Heaven.” Locals still regard the words as a great honor.

At that time the imperial court set up a special institution in Pu'er Prefecture, the tea collecting and distribution center, in a bid to manage tea production, processing and trade. This is how the tea's name came about. By that time, trade in Pu'er tea had

reached Southeast Asia and parts of South Asia.

Meanwhile, transporting Pu'er tea became a thriving business. Yunnan is a mountainous province with many virgin forests, so good transportation in the early days relied on a large numbers of mules, horses and oxen. Those transportation teams were known as horse or oxen caravans. The operators of these caravans were mostly Han, who had shuttled between inland areas and Yunnan for 1,300 years. Even today in Yiwu County, many local Han people say their ancestors were immigrants who came with the caravans.



Pu'er tea has been transported by horse caravans for hundreds of years.

Yiwu in Xishuangbanna is a small town legendary for its tea. In 736, Liu Hancheng, a Han person, led a horse caravan to Yunnan. The caravan surmounted various difficulties until it finally reached a virgin forest located at an altitude of about [4,290 feet] above sea level in northern Mengla County, Xishuangbanna. There Liu decided to settle down and join the tea business. He opened a teashop named “Tongqing,” which was among the first in the area. Over the next 200 years, many other teashops sprouted up, some of which are still famous today. The emergence of the teashops transformed the forested area into a small town. Traders came from afar and made huge profits, and thereafter settled in the area.

Yiwu has been a renowned tea processing center and export base since the Qing Dynasty. However, now there are only dilapidated walls and cracked houses here, and weeds grow along the sides of ancient roads. Even the famous Shipping Guildhall, which was once a thriving well-decorated edifice, has become a ramshackle building. Only the hoof prints on the ancient roads remind people of the prosperity of former days. But tourists still visit the old tea processing mills in Yiwu. In spring or autumn, visitors watch how Pu'er is processed manually, in contrast to most areas where Pu'er is processed with machines.

The Gao family firm is local tea trader with a history of around 100 years. The family plants tea in its own garden, covering an area of about 100 mu (1 mu equals [just over 800 square yards]). Some of their wild tea trees are more than a century old. Because of their high value, tea dealers come from as far away as Taiwan to ask about their yields. Nowadays, there are three people in the Gao family and they still work together processing their tea. Gao's wife is in charge of drying the leaves through rapid pan-frying. Then she rolls, rubs and shapes the leaves. Frying the leaves also helps remove their bad smell. After that, Gao's daughter steams the pu'er. The dry leaves become soft in the warm and humid environment. At this point she wraps the leaves in a cloth and shapes them into a cake – the form in which the tea is sold.

The last step is the most important – the



Xiamei Village, a distribution center for Oolong tea produced in the Wuyi Mountain

pressing of the tea, which needs to be done by men. Gao bends over and lifts a large stone of around [22 pounds]. “We have to press pu'er with this stone for at least half an hour,” he explains. The Gao family has 20 such stones, and continually working them to press the pu'er requires considerable physical strength. It also requires a certain technique. Knowing how, where, and how long to press involves much knowledge and experience.

Da Hong Pao from Wuyi Mountain of Fujian Province

Da Hong Pao is the best Oolong Tea. It is grown in Jiulongke (literally the nest of nine dragons), a valley on the north side of Wuyi Mountain. The site appears on UNESCO's list of both natural and cultural World Heritage Sites.

Jiulongke is named after the nine cliffs flanking the valley, which look like dragons. Visitors can see six original Da Hong Pao tea trees of 350 years old growing among the rocks of Jiulongke. They look ordinary, but [0.7 ounces] of the Da Hong Pao can be sold for [US\$31,580]. In the past gun-toting guards patrolled the area. However, since 2006 it has been forbidden to harvest leaves from these trees. Da Hong Pao currently sold on the market comes from plants grown in the 1970s and 1980s.

In fact there are many tea trees growing on the cliffs and hills of Wuyi Mountain, but for hundreds of years people have believed that Da Hong Pao is the best. The most outstanding feature of Da Hong Pao is its strong aroma, which resembles the scent of an orchid. The fragrance is intense and long-lasting.

Tea from Tianxin Temple on Wuyi Mountain enjoys an equally high reputation. Built during Emperor Dezong's Zhenyuan reign (785-804) in the Tang Dynasty, the temple has a history of over 1,200 years. It is the largest temple on Wuyi Mountain, and sits not far away from the six original Da Hong Pao tea trees. In fact the trees used to belong to the temple and were protected by its monks. Every year they would pick a few leaves and make tea for themselves. It is said they were very skillful in their processing, and the tea they made was praised and adored by emperors of several dynasties. This was how Da Hong Pao won its reputation.

Viewed from afar, the temple often looks indistinct under a cloud of fog. Around the temple are green pines and bamboo groves, giving a secluded and restful feeling, though these days there are many visitors. If they are lucky, they can not only drink fine five-year-old Da Hong Pao, but also have the opportunity to talk about tea and study Buddhist scripture with masters in the temple.

Xiamei Village is another place that has gained fame for tea making. It is situated on the east side of Wuyi Mountain. Surrounded by green mountains dense with streams, the ancient village is quite charming. Visitors

could be forgiven for thinking they are in a southern water town. It is picturesque for its small bridges, clear streams, lovely houses and richly ornamented ancient architecture.

The village used to be a collecting and distribution center for Oolong tea produced on Wuyi Mountain. Tea dealers gathered here to load the tea onto ships and transport it to countries in Southeast Asia and Europe. According to local historical records, in 1681, the 19th year of Kangxi's reign in the Qing Dynasty, there was a large amount of tea transported from Xiamei Village; on busy days around 300 ships a day came and went.

At that time horse caravans from Shanxi Province also came here and transported tea northward, inaugurating a tea trade road that led to Kyakhta, on the then Sino-Russian border.

The tea business brought Xiamei Village prosperity and attracted many rich tea merchants. It is said that the Zou Family, the biggest tea trader in the village, was able to lend the court 500 million taels of silver, an amount almost equivalent to half the national treasury at that time. No wonder Kangxi and Qianlong, two famous emperors of the Qing Dynasty, both traveled south several times and chose concubines from the Zou family. This was rare in the Qing Dynasty, since intermarriage between the Manchu and the Han people was forbidden. Today visitors can still get an idea of the Zou family's prosperity and glory by taking a look at the beautiful and magnificent Zou Family Ancestral Temple.

Black Tea from Qimen County of Anhui Province

Keemun from Qimen, Darjeeling from India, and Uva tea from Sri Lanka are considered the world's three major black teas. Keemun won the gold prize in the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition and thereafter became famous around the world. On the international market, Keemun was especially favored by England's nobility for afternoon tea. They think Keemun has a sugary flavor with a flowery scent.

Qimen County is in the Yellow Mountain Scenic Area in Anhui Province, which is a cultural and natural UNESCO World Heritage Site. About 90 percent of the people here are tea producers.

Every spring when it is time for tea harvesting, women pickers can be seen everywhere on the green mountains. These diligent women, singing tea-picking songs, form part of a beautiful scene. Men also work busily during this season, processing tea day and night. Visitors can smell the fragrant tea everywhere. In the past, local schools arranged holidays for students during tea-picking season, allowing students to help their parents with the harvest. Even today many schools in Qimen's rural areas still have these unique “tea holidays.”

Tea continues on Page 15

China Visas explained

China clamps down on expats working in China – but which visa type is required?

Posted on December 30, 2011 by China Briefing

Dec. 30 – China currently issues nine different types of visa for various purposes, however for foreign nationals working in China, only the Z visa is valid. Here we provide details on all of the different types of visas and their applications and permitted uses as follows. A summary on the Z visa situation and the required supporting documentation is provided at the end.

The nine types of Chinese visas fall into two categories, namely, ordinary and diplomatic visas. The ordinary visa consists of eight types, which are respectively marked with Chinese phonetic letters F, L, Z, X, C, J-1, J-2 and G. The diplomatic visa is marked D.

Ordinary Visa

L Visa = Tourist visa

Issued to foreigners who enter China temporarily for touring, family visiting or other personal affairs. Single-entry and double-entry tourist visas are available. The maximum stay in China per entry is 30 days. Multiple-entries are not granted for tourist visas.

No visa is required for foreigners who only travel to Hong Kong and Macau. For those who wish to travel to Tibet, an approval notice from the China Tibet Tourism Bureau is required in order to apply for a tourist visa. Telephone number of China Tibet Tourism Bureau: +86-891-6834313. Fax number: +86-891-6834632.

F Visa = Business/Visit Visa

Issued to foreigners who are invited to China for business visits, research, lectures, and scientific-technological and



cultural exchanges. Single-entry, double-entry, six-month-multiple-entry, and one-year-multiple-entry business visa are all available. The maximum stay in China per entry is 30 days.

Z Visa = Work Visa

Issued to foreigners who are taking up a post or employment in China, and their accompanying family members.

X Visa = Student Visa

Issued to foreigners who come to China for studies or intern practices for a period of six months or above.

C Visa = Crewmember Visa

Issued to crewmembers on international aviation, navigation and land transportation missions and their accompanying family members.

J Visa = Journalist Visa

J-1 visas are issued to foreign journalists who are posted to China for at least one year.

J-2 visas are issued to foreign journalists who are on temporary interview missions in China.

G Visa = Transit Visa

Issued to foreigners who transit through China.

D Visa = Residence Visa

Issued to foreigners who are going to live in China permanently.

Diplomatic and Service Visa

Issued to foreign government officials and the staff of diplomatic missions and of the United Nations who travel to China for official mission or accreditation.

About Z Visa

Z visas are issued prior to entry into China upon the submission of supporting documentation by the employer and related government department. Upon arrival, the Z visa holder must then obtain work and residence permits. When applying for the work permit, the employer's business license, Organization Code Certificate, tax registration certificate and FIE approval certificate (if the employer is foreign-invested) must be provided, among other required documents.

Where a foreigner changes his/her job but continues to hold a valid work permit, he/she can undertake an "employer change" procedure with the government to renew the work permit. The actual procedure for the renewal may vary from city to city. In Shanghai, the main documentation required for such application includes:

- Two copies of the foreigner employment application form
- A release letter from the previous employer (if the foreigner is relocated to Shanghai from a different city, government-released proof of work permit relocation/cancellation shall be provided)
- Valid business license, Organization Code Certificate, FIE approval certificate (if the employer is foreign-invested) of the new

employer

- A curriculum vitae in Chinese, including the highest academic degree obtained and complete work experience
- Work-related qualification certificate or proof of past work experience (issued by previous employers) that is related to the new employment
- Academic qualifications
- Employment contract with the new employer
- The current work permit
- Valid passport, residence permit and employer's employment permit
- Three passport photos
- Other documents required by the government

We advise readers to obtain professional advice when dealing with such procedure, as requirements may change on a case-by-case basis.

If in doubt concerning the application process of visas for expatriate personnel, please contact Dezan Shira & Associates at payroll@dezshira.com. Expatriate workers in China without the correct paperwork are increasingly at risk to be caught in 2012 due to the increased PSB scrutiny of expatriates in China. We recommend carrying a photocopy of your relevant passport pages with you at all times, in addition to your residence permit if working in China. Expats without these documents should take the matter up with their employers, while it should be noted that both the employer and the employee can be fined, have their business licenses revoked, and face deportation if they are not in compliance. ■

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Guidelines welcome foreign money

Ministry opens more industries to investment from overseas

By Ding Qingfen and Lan Lan, China Daily

BEIJING —China will encourage foreign companies to invest more in domestic industries to further make good on the country's commitment to open its economy, according to guidelines released on [Dec. 29, 2011].

In a new version of the Foreign Direct Investment Industry Guidelines (2011), the Chinese government is encouraging foreign investors to put money into advanced manufacturing, the service industry and certain business concerned with energy conservation, advanced technology, renewable sources of energy, new materials and advanced-equipment manufacturing.

Government officials and experts said the new guidelines are in keeping with proposals contained in China's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015), which seeks to lay the foundation for a more innovative and greener economy.

On [Dec. 29], the Ministry of Commerce and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) issued the guidelines, which will replace a previous version of the rules that was published in 2007. They are expected to come into force on Jan. 30.

Compared with the 2007 version, the new guidelines encourage foreign companies to invest in a greater number of industries and reduce the number of industries that are off limits to such investment.

"The new version indicates China's

strong commitment to opening its market wider," said Wang Zhile, director of the ministry's research center for transnational cooperation. "It's absolutely a positive signal."

In the new guidelines, the Chinese government will encourage foreign enterprises to invest in new technology and equipment for the textile, chemicals and machinery-manufacturing industries.

The guidelines also call for the encouragement of investment into nine service industries. Among them are those concerned with charging electric vehicles and swapping their batteries, protecting intellectual property rights, cleaning up off shore oil pollution and vocational training.

China will also allow foreign companies to invest in medical institutes and various other industries that were previously off limits.

Dirk Moens, secretary general of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, said foreign investors are likely to take heed of the government's investment guidelines. This "will indeed facilitate decision-making for foreign investors thinking of coming to China", Moens said.

Kong Linglong, director general of the National Development and Reform Com-

mission's department of foreign capital and overseas investment, had similar thoughts.

"Looking at the changes in the new version, we can tell the way in which the Chinese government would like to transform its industrial structure," Kong said.

"And another message is that China is now placing more value on the quality of foreign investments rather than their scale."

The government will also prevent foreign companies from building or operating refineries that have the capacity to distill fewer than 200,000 barrels of crude oil a day. That is up from the previous limit of 160,000 barrels a day.

China, meanwhile, has removed industries from the list of those it encourages foreign companies to invest in. No longer part of that group are automakers, large coal-to-chemical operations and manufacturers of polycrystalline silicon.

"The restrictions generally apply to industries that have excessively large capacities and that pollute the environment," said Zhang Xiaoji, senior researcher at State Council's development research center.

"But they will probably be a source of their (foreign companies') complaints about transparency in China's market for foreign investment. To alleviate their concerns, China should try to provide detailed information about what will be restricted."



China issued the first version of its guidelines governing foreign direct investment in 1995. They are now amended every four years.

China released a draft version of the new guidelines in early April, seeking the public's suggestions and comments.

"We have made reasonable changes in response to foreign companies' opinions," Kong said. For instance, the draft version said foreign investors could take no more than a 50-percent stake in joint ventures that produce all of the chief components needed in new-energy vehicles, a proposal that led to heated discussions in the auto industry.

The final version changed the stipulation about "all chief components" to one that only concerns "fuel cell batteries".

Giving a keynote speech in December at a celebration ceremony for the 10th anniversary of China's entry into the World Trade Organization, President Hu Jintao said China will continuously open its economy to the world. He said that is especially true for industries concerned with advanced manufacturing, strategic emerging industries, services, agriculture and modern culture.

In April, China issued a directive that encouraged more investment in the high-tech, renewable energy and service industries, and for more attention to be paid to the country's western and central regions. ■

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WTO from Page 1

Appellate Body, China won the disputes over steel tariffs by the United States, the U.S. ban on Chinese poultry imports and [the European Union] anti-dumping duty on Chinese fasteners.

Though China lost the case "Measures Affecting the Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights," it cannot be overlooked that the panel set up by the Dispute Settlement to scrutinize the four complaints from the United States rejected some of the United States' key accusations, including that thresholds for criminal liability are inconsistent with China's obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

China has taken a positive attitude towards these cases. The cases it lost serve as lessons in better understanding WTO rules and accelerating domestic reforms, and the cases it won prompt the United States and EU to revise relevant regulations so as to ensure a fair and open multilateral trade system.

A Staunch Supporter of Free Trade and Investment

China has set up bilateral trade and economic cooperation mechanisms with 163 countries and regions worldwide, signed pacts for 10 free trade zones, and entered agreements with 129 countries on mutual investment protection and with 96 countries to avoid double taxation. These efforts facilitate international trade and investment and substantially advance the stable development of world economy.

After the Doha Round of global trade negotiations stalled, the trend of establishing free trade zones has gained momentum, and China has embraced this by incorporating free trade zones into its national strategies. China is currently establishing or negotiating for 15 free trade zones involving 28 countries and regions. This has significantly reduced disputes between China and other signatory countries, fostered a stable, transparent, free and fair environment for importers and exporters in all countries involved, and considerably galvanized bilateral trade.

Last year bilateral trade between China and its 10 major free trade partners – the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Pakistan, Chile, Singapore, New Zealand, Peru, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan – reached a total of US\$782.6 billion, accounting for 26.3 percent of China's total foreign trade in 2010.

The establishment of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Zone in 2010 proved to be a strong stimulus for foreign trade on both sides. That year ASEAN overtook Japan to become China's fourth largest export market, and in 2011 replaced Japan as China's third largest trade partner. At present, free trade has been largely realized between China and ASEAN, and the flow of various factors of production, ranging from capital, resources and technology to personnel, has become markedly more efficient, propelling the economic integration of the region to an unprecedented level.

Promoting Global Economic Growth

Since joining the WTO China has worked even more strenuously to achieve import-export balance. From 2001 to 2010 it expanded its imports fivefold, with the annual worth of imported goods approaching US\$750 billion, creating 14 million jobs for its trading partners. China is now the biggest export market for countries and regions including Japan, South Korea, ASEAN, Australia and South Africa. It is also the

second largest export market for EU and the third largest for the United States.

After the 2008 financial crisis China launched a raft of measures to spur economic growth and stabilize the exports while expanding domestic demand. It was the only major economy in the world to see increased imports in 2009, which gave support to countries stumbling in the worsening economic meltdown.

What's more, China is giving much needed assistance to the least developed countries by ramping up imports from them. Starting in 2001 China has granted zero tariff treatment to certain imports from the world's 41 least developed countries designated by the UN, and is steadily extending the scope of duty-free commodities. It is among the first developing countries in doing so. The WTO figures show that over the past decade Chinese imports from the world's least developed nations gained by a yearly average of 27 percent, hitting US\$43.3 billion in 2010. China has remained their largest export market for three successive years since 2008, taking in one fourth of their exports.

Striving for a Fair and Open International Trade System

As a member of the WTO, China is committed to helping improve the fairness and openness of the international trade system. Its involvement in the organization deepened when it signed the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) in 2003 and applied to join the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) in 2007. Meanwhile, China has been active in the institutional affairs of the WTO, recommending candidates for members of the Appellate Body and chairpersons of relevant committees. China made multiple donations to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF) as part of its support for Aid for Trade, which is designed to help developing countries, in particular least developed countries, expand their trade.

Though a developing country and a new member of the WTO, China is a steadfast advocate for continuing the Doha Round so that it can play a constructive role in establishing a healthy multilateral trade system, and is actively reaching for all parties to end the impasse. China has presented over 100 proposals for talks at the technical level, and made solid promise to cut custom duties. In 2009 it proposed the three negotiation guidelines of "respecting the mandate, locking the results and taking multilateral negotiations as the foundation," which were supported by most member countries of the WTO. At the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference China played a key role in the adoption of some important resolutions, including providing duty-free and quota-free market access for products originating from least developed countries. At the 7th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2009 Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming called on the gathering to send a positive signal to the world struggling with a once-in-a-century economic crisis, a signal to "open up, advance and reform." At the WTO Mini-Ministerial Meeting in Davos last January the minister told participants that China is ready to collaborate with other WTO members in a practical and proactive manner so as to achieve a successful result from the Doha Round by the end of 2011.

Yao Ling is a research fellow with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation. ■

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<http://www.chinatoday.com.cn>

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Export growth trend continues into the third quarter

Export growth trend continues into the third quarter

Minnesota exports, including agricultural, mining and manufactured products, grew almost 4 percent to US\$5.1 billion in the third quarter of 2011. The national export growth rate was almost 18 percent. Vermont (down 8 percent) and Connecticut (down 7 percent) were the only states with decreased exports during this period.

For the manufacturing sector alone, Minnesota exports were up almost 5 percent to US\$4.6 billion in the third quarter of 2011, while U.S. manufactured exports increased about 17 percent. **See Fig 1**

Note: Reports based on 2011 data cover export data based on the Harmonized System, which covers manufactured and non-manufactured exports, such as agriculture and mining, but not services.

Strong Demand in Asia and North America Drives Growth

The state's strongest-performing regions were Asia and North America. Minnesota exports to North America increased 5 percent (or up US\$87 million) to US\$1.9 billion, with strong gains to Mexico (up 47 percent to US\$356 million). The state's exports to Asia jumped 6 percent to US\$1.6 billion (or up US\$95 million), led by China, Singapore and Japan.

Minnesota sales jumped 14 percent to US\$138 million to the Australia-Pacific region – led by Australia (up 11 percent to US\$119 million, ranked 11th) – and 7 percent to US\$92 million to the Middle East.

State export trends were mixed in the European Union among the major

markets, although the overall trend was up 4 percent to US\$987 million. Although exports dropped to the Netherlands, Ireland and Germany, exports grew to United Kingdom, France and Italy.

Minnesota sales to Central and South America dropped by 9 percent to US\$232 million. Weaker demand in Chile (down US\$26 million) and Brazil (down US\$6 million) during this period offset strong export growth to Colombia (up US\$9 million) and Argentina (up US\$11 million) **See Fig 2 & Table 1**

Vehicles, Beverages and Machinery are Among Growing Commodity Groups

Exports of vehicle products increased 17 percent (or US\$69 million, the largest gain in value among all industries) to US\$470 million, between the third quarters of 2010 and 2011. Strong growth segments included snowmobiles (up 41 percent to US\$131 million, due to Canada, Finland and Sweden, which together accounted for 92 percent of sales) and parts for specialized vehicles and trucks (particularly to Mexico). These helped offset slumping demand for trucks and buses in Canada.

Exports of beverages and spirits had the second-largest gain in value, up US\$50 million (or 77 percent) to US\$116 million, particularly due to increased demand in Canada.

Machinery exports – the top product group – grew moderately by 4 percent to US\$989 million. Pumping and harvest/cleaning machinery and parts for lifting equipment and engines offset the US\$90

million (or 63 percent) drop in office machine parts. Exports grew the most in China, Mexico, Canada and Germany.

Minnesota sales of aircraft products and parts (up 31 percent to US\$117 million) increased the most to Mexico (up from US\$255,000 to US\$10 million, third-largest market), the United Kingdom (up 133 percent to US\$10 million, fourth-largest), Germany (up 709 percent to US\$5.7 million, eighth-largest) and South Korea (up from US\$78,000 to US\$4.7 million, 10th-largest).

Exports of miscellaneous grain (three-quarters were soybeans) were up 46 percent to US\$93 million. Key growing soybean markets for Minnesota included Mexico (up 70 percent to almost US\$39 million), China (up from no sales in the third quarter of 2010 to US\$6.7 million) and Japan (up 45 percent to US\$13.6 million).

The state's exports of meat grew 67 percent to US\$81 million, driven by fresh or frozen pork (up 90 percent to US\$25 million), frozen beef (up 131 percent to US\$11 million) and fresh beef (up 237 percent to US\$8 million). South Korea fueled the growth in sales of fresh or frozen pork (up 149 percent to US\$10 million) and frozen beef (up 229 percent to US\$5 million). Canada and Italy contributed the most to increased exports of fresh beef.

A proxy for medical exports (composed of HS 9018 to HS 9033) dipped by 5 percent. While medical exports declined to the Netherlands, Belgium and

Ireland, they grew strongly to South Korea (up 38 percent to US\$26 million) and Canada (up 14 percent to US\$55 million). Medical measuring instruments were the strongest-growing segment, up 39 percent to US\$84.5 million.

Exports of ores, slag and ash (mainly iron ores) decreased the most among all industries, falling US\$113 million (or 46 percent) to US\$134 million. Canada (representing 96 percent of this market) accounted for this decline.

See Fig 3 & Table 2

Minnesota Quarterly Export Statistics is the most current resource available for tracking the state's manufactured export trends and is prepared for the Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) by the Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) Analysis and Evaluation Office (Thu-Mai Ho-Kim, 651-259-7180). Starting with the first quarter 2011, the quarterly and annual statistics reports will primarily cover export data based on the Harmonized Tariff System (Schedule B), collected by the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC) and distributed by the Global Trade Information Services, rather than data based on the North American Industry Classification System industries (NAICS), collected by the USDOC and distributed by the World Institute of Social and Economic Research. Thus, current and future reports may not be comparable to past reports; all reports are available on the DEED website on the Export Statistics page (www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/Data_Publications/Data/Export_Statistics/index.aspx).

Figure 1. Minnesota Exports*, Third Quarters

*Includes manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries, but excludes

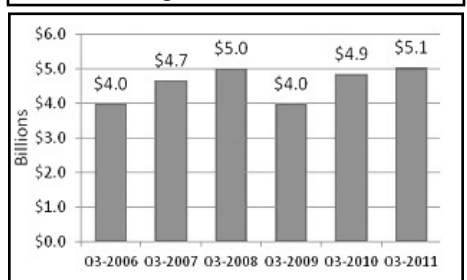


Figure 2. Minnesota Exports, by Region Third Quarter, 2011: US\$5.1 billion

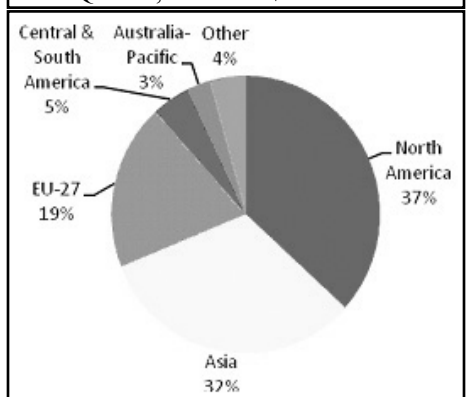


Table 1. Growth in Exports, by Country, Between Third Quarters of 2010 and 2011

Country	Exports (millions)	3rd Qtr 2010 to 3rd Qtr 2011		Year-to-Date MN Pct Ch.
		MN	US	
Canada	\$ 1,507	-2%	14%	10%
China	549	12%	21%	22%
Mexico	356	47%	24%	25%
Japan	285	6%	8%	23%
Germany	178	-4%	0%	-1%
South Korea	162	7%	13%	7%
U.K.	143	6%	22%	0%
Belgium	139	0%	18%	10%
Singapore	138	20%	15%	12%
Philippines	126	9%	6%	19%
Other	1,480	0%	20%	2%
World	\$ 5,064	4%	18%	9%

Figure 3. Minnesota Exports by 2-Digit HS Group*

*Includes manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries, such as agriculture and mining, but not services.

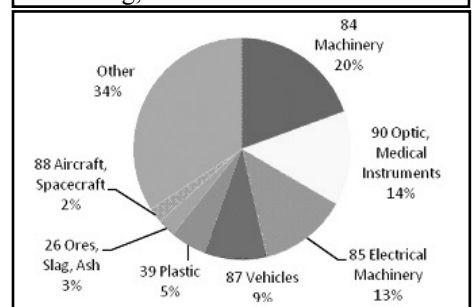


Table 2. Growth in Exports, by 2-Digit HS Group*, Between Third Quarters of 2010 and 2011

Harmonized System 2-Digit Product Group	Exports (millions)	3rd Qtr 2010 to 3rd Qtr 2011	
		MN	US
84 Machinery	\$989	4%	12%
90 Optic, Medical Instr.	\$695	-4%	6%
85 Electrical Machinery	\$663	4%	4%
87 Vehicles	\$470	17%	25%
39 Plastic	\$272	4%	10%
26 Ores, Slag, Ash	\$134	-46%	27%
88 Aircraft, Spacecraft	\$117	31%	11%
22 Beverages	\$116	77%	61%
23 Food Waste	\$110	-12%	14%
12 Misc. Grain, Seeds	\$93	46%	-1%
Other	\$1,406	9%	24%
Total	\$5,064	4%	18%

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Dr. Bigelow from Page 4

acquisition," articulates Bigelow.

Some may say that Chinese pedagogy is unique and deserves a separate program. While this may be nice, it is not sustainable for even popular languages such as Spanish.

"We believe language pedagogy, when highly developed, works for all. In this way, Chinese teachers learn from other language teachers and they have much to offer all language teachers. Chinese teachers are moving into the mainstream of language teaching pedagogy. We want Chinese teachers to be a part of the community of all language teachers, instead of being needlessly separated during their pre- or in-service education," says Bigelow.

In Minnesota, Chinese teachers who have come from China are now better understanding the American child, family, school and community. In our teacher training classes at the University of Minnesota, all language teachers come together to share ideas and learn from each other.

Bigelow adds, "In order to develop strong Chinese language programs, teachers need to become part of the wider profession of world language teachers. In programs such as ours, they develop a professional knowledge base to be part of the professional community in a K-12 school, including developing the language to talk about teaching, curriculum and learning."

Since 2005, the numbers of Chinese language programs and teachers seeking

Chinese licensure has greatly increased in Minnesota, observes Bigelow. "In our licensure classes there is critical mass of Chinese teachers now. They can work with classmates who also teach and speak Chinese and this is a new strength in our programs."

In the full-time teacher preparation program at the University of Minnesota, the Chinese teacher candidates are in the classroom during the day, and then come to the University at night to further their education. They network in their school community, in their small cohort of world languages teachers, and among Chinese teaching professionals. There are more books, articles, research projects, and discussions about Chinese pedagogy than ever before. Moreover, Chinese teachers are learning to teach Chinese to all types of students, not just the elite in special programs. Even though Chinese is still considered a less commonly taught language (LCTL), it is nevertheless becoming more typical in our schools in Minnesota.

"I love the energy that Chinese teachers bring," says Dr. Bigelow. "They come with their own traditions in education and are eager to share the beauty of their language and culture with students in Minnesota."

Dr. Bigelow can be reached at the University of Minnesota at 612-624-7087 or mbigelow@umn.edu.

Do you have any article ideas about Chinese language education? Contact Greg Hugh at 952-472-4757

Relations from Page 1

Timeline: October 2003

Story: Shenzhou 5. From 1999 to 2002, the China launched 4 unmanned satellites into space. Shenzhou 5 was the first manned spaceflight mission the China launched. Launches of Shenzhou 9 and Shenzhou 10 are planned for this year.

Why does it matter? China is only the third country in the world capable of independent human spaceflight. Space is a new terrain for Sino-U.S. relations, with its own challenges: for example, much of the United States' military capabilities depend on its satellites. In 2007, Beijing destroyed one of its own satellites with a missile: the United States responded by destroying one of its own satellites in 2008.

Timeline: August 2008

Story: Beijing hosts 2008 Summer Olympics.

Why does it matter? China won 51 gold medals, becoming the first country other than the United States or Russia to win the most medals at the Olympics since 1936. The 2008 Beijing Olympics were a great source of national pride and a symbol of China's increasing influence.



Timeline: November 2008

Story: FDA establishes branch in China. In response to a series of scandals regarding contaminated products made in China, the FDA established a branch in China. The FDA's China office is the FDA's first ever global office.

Why does it matter? While the Chinese branch of the FDA is chronically underfunded—only 13 employees exist for the entire country—the fact that the United States established its first ever international FDA branch in China indicates Chinese goods' increasing importance in the United States.

Timeline: August 2009



Story: Sina Weibo established. China's most popular microblogging Web site, similar to a hybrid between Twitter and Facebook.

Why does it matter? Sina Weibo is an example of the power of social media. Although it complies with internet censorship laws in China, it is generally considered

freer: for example, after the Wenzhou train collision in 2011, many unhappy posts, some of them contradicting the official government position, appeared on the site, though some of them were censored later.

Timeline: 2009-2010

Story: Operation Aurora. Operation Aurora was a 2009 China-based cyber-attack that Google disclosed and responded to in 2010. Several GMail accounts, including two belonging to dissident Ai Weiwei, were accessed. Google threatened to withdraw from China and redirected all searches to Google.com.hk to bypass Chinese internet censorship. In response, the government temporarily banned all access to Google search websites. Google stopped redirecting searches, instead linking to Google.com.hk, to avoid losing its Internet Content Provider license in China, and re-enabled search filtering.

Why does it matter? Internet censorship has been a subject of interest and tension between China and the United States for several years. Operation Aurora was an extremely high-profile example of the difference between United States and Chinese internet policy, and its lack of real resolution sheds a fascinating light on the tension.

Timeline: January 2011

Story: China-US Summit. President Hu Jintao visited the United States for the first time since Obama's 2009 state visit.

Why does it matter? The visit stabilized relations between China and the United States, and it changed the United States' acknowledgement of China's 'core interests' in Tibet and Taiwan, originally created in the 2009 visit.

Timeline: August 2011

Story: Gary Locke becomes United States Ambassador to China.

Why does it matter? Locke is the first Chinese-American ambassador to China in history. As former Secretary of Commerce, Locke was aware of the state of China-US dialogue before taking the post. Additionally, Locke's new job was a symbolic step down in rank, which signaled to China that the United States takes US-China relations very seriously. ■

Editor's Note: Obviously there are many other events that could be selected as being one of the top ten stories about China-U.S. relations over the past decade so we invite you to submit your list to articles@chinainsight.info so that they can be tabulated and featured in a subsequent issue of the paper.

Shanghai Tango from Page 9

founded March 2006 the Shanghai Dance Festival as the first independent dance festival in China.

Her strong engagement in the cultural world received international recognition. At the end of 2004 she was awarded as honorary member of ELIA, the European League of Institutes of the Arts. In November 2006 she received the honorary doctor degree of Dartington College of Arts in the U.K.

Jin Xing represents a new generation of China today. Her name means more as a synonym for courage, freedom, self-responsibility, and the endless power of an artful spirit.

Northrop Concerts and Lectures at the University of Minnesota is presenting the Minnesota debut of Jin Xing Dance Theatre Shanghai on Saturday, February 18 at 8:00

pm at the Orpheum Theatre.

For ticket information call (612) 625-6600 or visit www.northrop.umn.edu. ■



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Tea from Page 11



Qimen in Anhui Province grows good-quality black tea

Most people in Qimen drink tea, particularly on special days such as the beginning of the new year, when they drink to bless their business. When spring comes they

mark the start of transplanting rice seedlings with a cup, and when summer begins, they drink for relief from the summer heat. On the Mid-Autumn Festival they drink tea and appreciate the full moon, and in winter they drink tea to keep warm.

Besides sipping fine tea, tourists in Qimen are also attracted by the beautiful scenery. There is a nature reserve called "Guniujiang" on the western branch of Yellow Mountain, which has the same wonderful scenery as Yellow Mountain. Plentiful plants can be found here, including towering rare trees, vines, pteridophyte plants on the ground, and unknown flowers and grasses on the mountain paths. At the foot of Guniujiang there are a lot of tea-shops, providing a good place for visitors to appreciate a tea ceremony. As well as Keemun, there is another famous local green tea called "Wuliqing." In addition, wild tea made by local farmers are also very popular with tourists. ■

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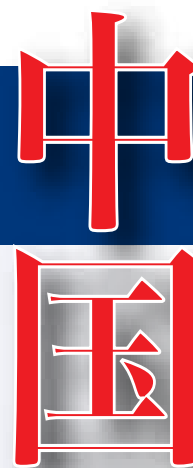
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MINNESOTA TRADE OFFICE

MINNESOTA CHINA MISSION



GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON will lead a trade mission to China in June to expand the state's trade relationship with the second largest economy in the world. Delegates will travel to Shanghai, Beijing and Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province in China. The mission will include meetings with business leaders and government officials, presentations by market and industry leaders, networking activities and business site visits.

China, Minnesota's second largest export market and the most populous country in the world, is experiencing tremendous economic growth and increasing consumer demand. In 2010, sales of Minnesota products to China reached \$1.84 billion, up 45 percent from the previous year. Continued export growth is expected, offering excellent opportunities for Minnesota manufactured exports and agricultural commodities. ★

Mission Dates: June 8 – 17, 2012

Mission Objectives

- Explore trade opportunities
- Acquire market information, business contacts and partners
- Increase exports
- Support current business interests in China
- Develop relationships with key trade organizations

Itinerary (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

June 8 FRIDAY . . . Depart Minnesota
 June 9 SATURDAY . . . Arrive Beijing
 June 10 SUNDAY . . . Mission events in Beijing
 June 11 MONDAY . . . Mission events in Beijing
 June 12 TUESDAY . . . Travel to Shanghai
 June 13 WEDNESDAY . . . Mission events in Shanghai
 June 14 THURSDAY . . . Mission events in Shanghai
 June 15 FRIDAY . . . Travel to Xian
 June 16 SATURDAY . . . Mission events in Xian
 June 17 SUNDAY . . . Depart Xian; Arrive in Minnesota

Mission Events

The Minnesota Trade Office, in conjunction with the U.S. Commercial Service and other U.S./Chinese partners, will organize an extensive business agenda. Potential events include:

- Market/industry presentations
- Customized business matchmaking
- Roundtable discussions
- Networking receptions
- Government meetings
- Site visits...and more

Who Should Apply

The Minnesota Trade Office will consider applications from all Minnesota-based companies or organizations with activities or business interests in China.

To Apply

Submit an application to the Minnesota Trade Office by March 15, 2012. Applications are available at www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/apps/survey/trade.shtml

Questions?

Contact Li King Feng, international trade representative Li.King.Feng@state.mn.us, 651-259-7484

Estimated Expenses

Estimated mission cost is \$7,500 – \$8,000 per person, including mission fee, round-trip coach air travel, ground transportation, hotel accommodations, mission events, and in-country assistance from the Minnesota Trade Office. The total fee depends upon the number of delegates sharing common expenses.

Funding Available

For Qualified Minnesota Small Businesses!

Your company may qualify for reduced trade mission fees through the STEP Export Assistance Program administered by the Minnesota Trade Office.



For eligibility information, contact Jennifer Kocs, 651-259-7488 or jennifer.kocs@state.mn.us.

Funded in part through a grant award with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

About the Minnesota Trade Office



The Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) is the state office that helps companies increase export sales. A division of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the MTO is the state's official export

promotion arm. Detailed information about our services is available online at www.PositivelyMinnesota.com/trade.