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今日天津

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TIANJIN TODAY 2014/04

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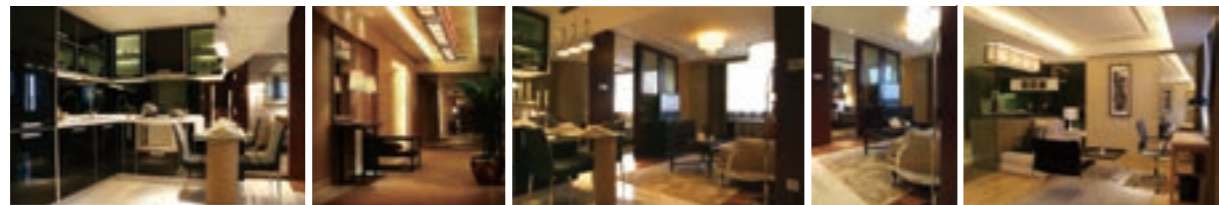
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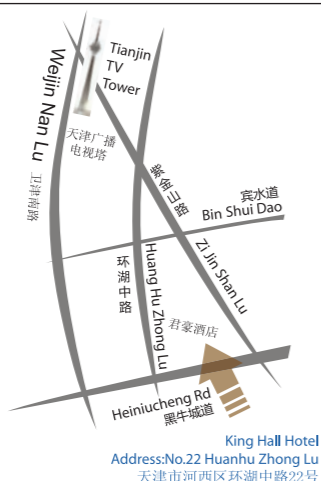
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great plan,together



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Letter from the Editor

With April, we are definitely into spring and by now everyone are adjusted to the new traffic restrictions introduced last month. Hopefully, this will help with Tianjin's future traffic congestion.

Last month, there were several activities that Jin Magazine helped sponsor, the European Chamber business seminar at the Westin and the TNC Networking Event "Biz Socializer" at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin, which were well attended and helped expats and foreign companies get connected and share experiences to help with their business ventures in China. As we have seen, there are more foreign visitors and expats in China because of the strong China market.

In this month's issue, we look at why the foreigners choose various cities in China to settle. Over 600,000 foreigners (not counting students) now live and work in China, why do they select one location over another? We will look at four cities: Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Chongqing. All expats go through a process of deciding which city in China is best for their needs. Each of the cities we have chosen for this article has unique attractions. Some expats have changed locations from their first landing in China. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each and do you agree that these are the same reasons that brought you to China?

Also in this issue, we will look at some new technology such as the smart phones. The dangers that these devices can cause and how they have become part of our way of life, so use them wisely. We also review the use of traditional idioms and how they can be used effectively in modern communication.

在阳光明媚的四月，我们迎来了天津的春天。很多人都在适应着上个月新施行的机动车尾号限行措施。希望这能解决天津的交通拥堵问题。

上个月《今日天津》杂志举办了许多的活动。例如，在威斯汀酒店举办的欧洲商会业务研讨会还有在天津天诚丽笙世嘉酒店举办的TNC的Biz Socializer活动。这些活动都很受欢迎并且帮助来自天津不同行业的企业交流彼此的经验。

这个月我们将讨论外国人来中国后要选择在哪个城市生活。如今，大约有60万的外国人在中国工作和生活。为什么他们觉得自己现在的选择是正确的？我们将看一看北京、天津、上海、重庆这四个城市的比较。每个城市都有着各自独特的魅力，哪些是优势，哪些又是劣势，哪些又是吸引外国人来这些城市的原因？

本月刊里我们还将讨论一下智能手机——它如何改变我们的生活方式以及带给我们哪些隐形危险。在文化栏目里，我们还会告诉大家如何正确使用传统成语和俗语。

David Wong

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始终
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以上荣誉顾问按姓名首字母顺序排列, 排列不分先后。

TIANJIN NEWS

The First China (Tianjin) International Telemedicine Technology Exhibition to be held in Tianjin

■ 首届中国(天津)国际远程医疗技术展览会将在天津滨海国际会展中心举行

美国远程医疗技术协会(ATA)主办的首届中国(天津)国际远程医疗技术展览会将于2014年10月28日至30日在天津滨海国际会展中心举行。届时将邀请业内著名专家学者、科研人员、技术商家、风险投资家、企业家等出席,会议规模约6000人。

The First China (Tianjin) International Telemedicine Technology Exhibition will be held at the Tianjin Binhai International Convention and Exhibition center on October 28 2014. Around 6000 people are expected to attend to see and listen to speakers such as Jonathan Linkous, the CEO of The American Association of Telemedicine Technology (ATA) and Alice Watland, the COO of ATA. Many world renowned scholars and researchers will attend along with investors.

Airline Tianjin to begin twice-weekly flights to Irkutsk

■ 天津航空将运营来往于天津和伊尔库茨克的航线

天津航空将于今年夏天开始运营来往于天津和伊尔库茨克的航线。伊尔库茨克是西伯利亚的重要经济中心,靠近西伯利亚的“珍珠”——贝加尔湖。天津航空一周两班的新航线将把亚洲两个重要的经济中心连接起来。

This summer another new route will be opened from Tianjin to Irkutsk in Russia. Tianjin Airlines will fly twice weekly. Irkutsk is a growing business centre and within easy reach of Siberia's 'jewel' of Lake Baikal. Further domestic routes are being developed with new services from IrAero.

This month also sees flights starting to and from Kyzyl in the Republic of Tyva and Abakan in the Republic of Khakassia in southern Siberia. The first flight to Abakan was on the 25th of March. A one way ticket costs around 3700 roubles (\$102). The 1,460 km route will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Isle of Man Chief Minister signs economic MOU with Tianjin

■ 马恩岛首席部长与天津滨海高新区签署谅解备忘录

马恩岛首席部长艾伦·贝儿和天津滨海高新技术产业开发区签署了经济贸易合作的谅解备忘录。不久将会成立一个双边互利的联合委员会旨在促进双方的经济、贸易、文化、科技、农业和技术的联系。

Chief Minister of the Isle of Man, Allan Bell, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on economic and trade cooperation with Tianjin - one of China's fastest growing business centres.

The MOU with the Administrative Commission of the Tianjin Binhai Hi-Tech Industrial Development Area is aimed at strengthening the relationship between the two jurisdictions. The MOU was officially signed by the Chief Minister and Mr Ni Xianguy, Chairman of the Administration Commission of Tianjin Binhai Hi-Tech Industrial Development Area.

TIANJIN NEWS

2014 Summer Davos Forum in Tianjin to explore innovation

■ 2014年天津夏季达沃斯论坛探索创新

中外专家为2014年的天津夏季达沃斯论坛话题进行献计献策讨论。专家强调激发创新思维的重要性。新一届的达沃斯论坛将帮助中国企业与时俱进,加快工业升级和海外投资。2014年的夏季达沃斯论坛将在9月10日于天津举行。

Chinese and foreign experts had a brainstorming session ahead of the upcoming Summer Davos forum with an emphasis on the necessity to inspire innovation.

Sheng Bin, chief of the APEC Research Institute at Nankai University, said innovation had been a focal issue for many countries since the 2008 financial crisis.

The 2014 Summer Davos Forum theme is creating value through innovation which can help Chinese enterprises keep ahead when it comes to the latest trends. This will facilitate the country's industrial upgrading and bring in more overseas investment, said Sheng.

Since the first Summer Davos meeting - also known as the Annual Meeting of the New Champions - was held in 2007, the Chinese port cities of Dalian and Tianjin have been hosting the event in alternate years.

W. Lee Howell, managing director and member of the managing board of the World Economic Forum, said that the summer event has topics ranging from innovation, sustainable development, value chains and entrepreneurship.

The World Economic Forum, in contrast, mainly explores issues essential to worldwide economic development, said Howell.

"One thing that is amazing about having this annual New Champions Forum in China is that we build a bridge between the world and China," said David Aikman, managing director of the New Champions World Economic Forum.

"If you are an expert on the U.S., you know what is happening in Silicon Valley but you come here to learn what innovations are taking place in China and all over the world," said Aikman.

The three-day 2014 Summer Davos meeting is scheduled to open in Tianjin on Sept.10.

Grand View Hotel Listed as the 15th Five-Star Hotel in Tianjin

■ 天津第十五家五星级酒店 - 天津新桃园酒店正式挂牌

2014年3月7日,天津市五星级酒店家族又添一员——新桃园酒店正式挂牌,成为本市第十五家五星级酒店。新桃园酒店由新加坡曼哈顿酒店集团管理,酒店总经理谭建强先生表示,我们旨在提高全方位品质的同时,让五星级的高端服务,高性价比,感受我们的热忱无处不在,让“五星级”更“接地气”。

On March 7, the Grand View Hotel unveiled its Five-Star Hotel plaque in a special ceremony. Managed by the Manhattan Hotel Group Singapore, the Grand View has become the fifteenth five-star hotel in Tianjin. According to General Manager Tan Jianqian, the hotel is focused on enhancing the quality of all areas of operations and delivering five-star service to all of its customers.

Located in the Hexi District, the Grand View Hotel is close to the financial street of You Yi Lu, Xiao Bai Lou, the Galaxy Mall and the Mei Jiang area. It is central to the best that Tianjin has to offer in tourism, shopping, sightseeing and transportation. The hotel rooms offer spectacular views over the most beautiful parts of Tianjin.

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WHAT'S ON

Tianjin Grand Theatre

Western Shore Museum

Tianjin Concert Hall

EXPO

Don't Miss

04/04

Requiem Mozart
莫扎特《安魂曲》
指挥: 郑小瑛 / 演奏: 天津爱乐乐团
演出: 中央音乐学院音乐教育学院音乐会合唱团
简介: 《安魂曲》的天津首演, 清明时节以音乐寄托对亲人的哀思。

19:30
Price: 280/180/120/80/ 50RMB
Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/04

Stringed Instrument Indoor Concert
20:00

墨染 中国印象——弦乐四重奏音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
Tel: 022-23263505
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

04/05-06

Stage drama: Autumn Begins
19:30
Price: 580/380/280/180/120/80/ 50RMB
大型历史话剧《立秋》
导演: 陈颀、查明哲 / 编剧: 姚宝瑄、卫中 / 演出: 山西省话剧院
简介: 讲述晋商三代人的跌宕惊魂, 一场“银行派”与“票号派”的纷争。

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/04

Piano solo concert
20:00
独白 拉赫玛尼诺夫作品专场——温雨川钢琴独奏音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
Tel: 022-23263505
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

04/11

String Instrument Quartet Concert
20:00

如歌的旋律——弦乐四重奏音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
Tel: 022-23263505
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

04/12-13

Children's drama: Pinocchio
10:30/15:30
Price: 120RMB
儿童剧《匹诺曹历险记》
演出: 北京丑小鸭卡通艺术团
简介: 以全互动体验方式将童话故事全新呈现于舞台, 零距离触摸智慧童话世界, 提前半小时入场的小朋友还可参加丑小鸭“欢乐30分”的互动狂欢活动!

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/12

Italian double piano concert
20:00

科丽&卢比妮二重奏—意大利双人钢琴组合专场

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
Tel: 022-23263505
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

04/16

Poland folk dance
19:30
Price: 180/120/80/ 50RMB
玛祖卡—波兰民间舞
演出: 波兰雷布尼克Przygoda舞团

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/18

Traditional Stringed Instrument Concert
20:00
千古遗风·国乐之魂——琴箫合鸣琴歌雅集

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
Tel: 022-23263505
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

04/19

Stage drama: there is a kind of poison

19:30
Price: 380/280/180/120/80/ 50RMB
话剧《有一种毒药》
简介: 我喜欢蜜糖, 但我也喜欢毒药, 因为有时我分不清两者的区别。——万方

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/19

Pipe organ concert
19:30
Price: 280/180/120/80/ 50RMB
克里斯托弗·拉塔瓦管风琴音乐会
独奏: 克里斯托弗·拉塔瓦

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/23-05/04

3 Dimension Art Exhibition



Western Art Museum
No.79 Jie Fang Bei Lu, Heping
Tel:022-23303255
西洋美术馆 天津市和平区解放北路79号

04/19

Choir live concert
19:30
Price: 280/180/120/80/ 50/30RMB
在那遥远的地方——王洛宾合唱作品音乐会
演出: 首都经典合唱团

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/20

Children choir live concert
19:30
Price: 180/120/80/ 50RMB
春天的庆典童声合唱音乐会
演出: 天津木兰童声合唱团

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/23-25

2014 China(Tianjin) National Defense Science and Technology Expo

2014中国(天津)国防科技博览会

滨海会展中心

04/25

Chinese and Western Bowed Stringed Instrument Indoor Concert
20:00
清风谷雨奏和声—中西弓弦乐器独奏、重奏室内乐音乐会

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
Tel: 022-23263505
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

04/25-26

Stage drama: Miss Julie
19:30
Price:680/580/380/280/180/120/80RMB
话剧《朱莉小姐》
原著: 奥古斯特·斯特林堡
导演: 凯蒂·米歇尔、里奥·沃纳

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/26

2014 Ancient Stringed Instrument
20:00

2014甲午古琴雅集之一

No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
Tel: 022-23263505
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

04/26

Symphony orchestra
19:30
Price: 380/280/180/120/80/ 50RMB
台湾长荣交响乐团音乐会
匈牙利舞曲第六号/勃拉姆斯《威廉·退尔》序曲/罗西尼第八号交响曲/德沃夏克等

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

04/26

Classical music concert
19:30
Price:280/180/ 120/80/50RMB
蓝色狂想曲—古典音乐盛宴系列之五
演出: 天津爱乐乐团

Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
Tel: 83882000
天津大剧院 河西区平江道文化中心

Venue: Tuanbo Lake Songjiang Soccer Training center, Tianjin, China
Organized by: Tianjin Ultimate Community
Teams Invited: Shanghai Huwa team, Beijing Hangtime, Beijing Big Brother, Hangzhou Jiangnan, Dalian Team, Dalian Maple Leaf, Tianjin Speed, Teda Maple Leaf International School, Tianjin University of Sport, Beijing Bazinga, Beijing Bang, Beijing Sports University, Nanjing Sports University, Xi An Team, Air Kazak

Tournament Director: Edward Wang 王跃胜
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Where to live in China?

By David Wang and Carmen King

哪座城市才是你的家？

要选择哪座城市生活？这是个大问题！当然，这是在你已经决定来中国生活的前提下（这已经是个勇敢的决定了！）。中国真是太大了！打开地图，你会感觉无从选起。为了不让你盲目做决定，我们建议你多做一些研究，了解中国最适合外国人居住的几个城市。我们在这里也会给你一些建议，本着高效、简单和靠谱的原则，我们就说说中国四大直辖市吧！

北京、天津、上海、重庆是中国的四大直辖市。这几个城市与国际接轨的程度相对比较高，在这里生活，至少可以保证你能接触到国外进口的食品、品牌和服务。这几座城市有中国最好的大学和医疗设施。住宅建设迅猛，你很容易找到全新的公寓；全球顶尖的酒店和大型商场林立；交通系统四通八达，机场设施先进。无论这个城市的名字对你有多么陌生，你最后会发现自己还是按照熟悉的方式生活。

如果你问我会如何选择，我自然会说“天津”，因为我现在就住在这里。但是，为了更负责地进行分析，我们不妨用数字说话。

首先我们先看看中国有多少常住外国人。根据中国政府2010年的数据，大约有六十万外国人常住中国，其中不包括港澳台地区的居民。其中，人数最多的是韩国人，其次是美国和日本。另外一项由汇丰银行所做的研究显示，在2013年，中国成为外国人首选的移居目的地。

北京

根据官方统计的数据，北京人口为2200万，但作为中国最大的城市之一，你有必要再加上20%的流动人口。从2010年的数据来看，大部分外国人都选择在北京生活。首先，很多国际大公司和国有企业的总部都在北京。如果你是来就业或从商，北京自然是首选。

但这也是一把双刃剑，因为这座城市的竞争非常激烈。很多刚刚毕业的留学生为了积累工作经验，不得以零薪酬的方式进行实习。

在文化生活方面，北京是个具有3000多年历史的古都，有很多历史遗迹，比如长城、故宫、颐和园等。北京还有大大小小的博物馆，除了历史、艺术和军事，就连自来水都有自己的主题博物馆。很多博物馆都是免费的，很适合假日参观。

作为首都，北京受到全国人民的敬仰。哪怕有天灾人祸，北京也不会受到太大的影响。因为保住北京，就是保住了全国。

但这看似美好的一切也是有代价的。北京的生活成本也是全国最高的。北京中心城区的房价令人望而兴叹。但好在有便捷、便宜的交通体系，你没有必要住在市中心。

有孩子的家庭也无需担心教育问题。除了本地学校可以选择，北京的国际学校也能满足需求。但是这些学校学费很贵，选择国际学校的家庭大部分都是公司承担学费的。

北京四季分明，冬天不太冷但却很干燥，夏天比较潮湿闷热。大部分时间空气都很干燥而且灰尘较多。

天津

天津可以说是我的家，距离北京只有30分钟，55块钱的路程。若干年前，人们都把天津看成是拥有“小城思维”的大城市。人们对新事物抱着怀疑的态度，人们只是小声议论而不会真正接受。外国人走到哪里都是一道奇观，人们总是不自觉的要打量一番。不过这种状况正在改变，因为天津的外国人和外来人口越来越多，人们渐渐习以为常。

天津的变化很快，似乎前十几年天津都是以龟速在爬，然后近两年突然发力奔跑。这其中最明显的改变就是交通系统的发展。以往的柴油动力公交车逐渐被电动车取代。地铁线路不断增加，很快2号线就将连通天津机场。5、6号线正在加紧建设中。

另外一个显著的变化就是大型商场相继开业。以前，人们购物只能去滨江道商业街。而现在，天津已经拥有多个大型综合性商场，包括大悦城、银河广场、水游城和万达广场等。这些商场完全能够满足外籍人士的购物、餐饮和娱乐需求。

另外在“住”上，天津有越来越多的楼盘拔地而起。虽然大多数人选择租房，但是拥有自己的一套住房也不是不可能。天津的房租说不上便宜，但也不会高得离谱。100平米的一套公寓月租金大概在3000到3500之间，而在北京和上海你很难租到同样大小的房子。

既然交通、购物和居住需求都能满足，天津也越来越成为外国人来中国生活的理想目的地。

上海

上海被认为是中国城市化程度最高的城市，人口超过2600万。如果北京是中国的政治中心，那么上海就是中国的经济中心。从上世纪30年代起，上海就已经成为中国金融服务中心。

上海人更喜欢讲上海话，这种方言和普通话相去甚远。如果你要在上海生活，恐怕你也要学一些上海话。

上海的天气比较潮湿，所以感觉比北方干净一些。但你必须要忍受没有暖气的阴冷寒冬，以及超过40摄氏度的闷热酷暑。

说到住，上海的房价的确是全国最高的。所以，初来乍到的外国人恐怕要选择在市郊租房了。虽然地铁同样四通八达，但是你要做好淹没在通勤人群中的准备。

重庆

重庆是最新被归入直辖市的城市。和一个久居重庆的老外聊天，他说重庆就是中国版的“狂野西部”。论人口，2900万个这个数字不算少。同样，这是一个贫富交融的社会。既有挥金如土的大款，也有挣扎在温饱线上的外来人口。在重庆大街上你会看到时尚与乡土并存的巨大反差。

在重庆也有很多项目在建设。中国政府对重庆的扶持非常大，另外，海外企业也在重庆打造自己的品牌。从2005年起，惠普就成为重庆最大的外资企业之一。沃尔玛在重庆有10家连锁超市，星巴克也有24家店面。无论是内资还是外资，落地重庆的投资一直在增加，今后也会吸引更多的外国人到那里发展。

重庆的天气恐怕不是所有人都能适应。夏季高温高湿，气温可达40摄氏度；冬天气温只有5摄氏度左右，却没有暖气。

作为一个外国人要在重庆生活，重要的一点就是要会说中文。这也是近年来一个突出的趋势，不会说中文的老外无论在哪里都是一个劣势。

最后一个忠告：没钱你可别来！在重庆，如果你想舒舒服服地过日子，你的预算大概在1500-2000美金。

无论你选择哪座城市，一定要把耐心和灵活一起打包带来。你可能要不断遭遇打击，遇见意外。所以，你真的要加入这60万老外的行列中吗？

Where to live in China? A big question for sure. For the sake of this article, we are going to take it that you have already decided to live in China. Wow, a noteworthy decision in itself. However, that is only the beginning of the decisions that need to be made, after all China is a big and vast country. One look at the map and you will see an endless collection of cities to choose from. Rather than choose blindly, we recommend you do your homework and read up on the many cities throughout China that are suitable for expats. For the sake of simplicity, efficiency and relevance, during our discussion here, we will focus on the four major cities in China that hold a unique position of being directly controlled by the Chinese Central Government.

The four cities in China directly controlled by the Central Government going from North to South are 北京 beijing, 天津 tiānjīn, 上海 shànghǎi, and 重庆 chóngqīng. For our expats out there wondering what being governed directly by the China Central Government means, think of it in terms of a city in America which does not have a State government between it and the National government in Washington, D.C. Namely, the city government would report directly to the National government, thus eliminating the “State” level government all together.

In practical terms, this means these four cities 北京 beijing, 天津 tiānjīn, 上海 shànghǎi, and 重庆 chóngqīng can all be considered valid choices for expats choosing to live in China. Although you will be in China, living in one of these four cities will ensure, to a relative degree, that you will have access to foreign goods, brands and services. China’s largest and most famous universities are located in these cities. In three of these four cities (北京 beijing, 天津 tiānjīn, 上海 shànghǎi) you will find a United Family Healthcare hospital, which provides international standard medical care. New apartments are constantly being built, so it is possible you may even find a place where you are the very first person to live there. Top brand hotels and mega malls exist in each of these cities. Not to mention international airports and fairly developed transportation systems. Put in simple terms, in each of these cities you will find McDonald’s, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wal-Mart and Starbucks. So despite how “far” it sounds to say you live in China, in the end you may find you aren’t as far off the beaten path as you thought.

Thus the question becomes, which of these four cities (北京 beijing, 天津 tiānjīn, 上海 shànghǎi, 重庆 chóngqīng) should you choose to live in? Ok, we will openly confess our bias as we say 天津 tiānjīn

is the choice for expats coming to China. With that shameless plug being taken care of, we will get down to the more responsible task of reporting on all four cities. As the old saying goes, the numbers don’t lie, so let’s begin our investigation of “where to live in China” by looking at how many expats are actually in China?

How Many Expats are in China?

According to the last census taken by the Chinese government in 2010, there are almost 600,000 foreigners living in China, excluding those from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. This represents less than 0.5% of the total population, making China one of the countries with the least number of expatriates. The greatest numbers of expats in China were Koreans, followed by USA and Japan. However, one has to consider that Koreans are also considered one of China’s 56 minorities and some Koreans may have been double counted and there are many Chinese Americans who have returned to China for business since USA allows for dual citizenship.

Another study completed by HSBC Bank in 2013 indicated that China was the number one destination for expats due to economic opportunities, life/work balance, easier to make friends and a safe and interesting environment for their children. The survey, which asked 7000 respondents, did not ask about the air quality and pollution.

The number of expats living in China is not small, and many more are considering moving here. Thus your consideration of living in China is not a lonely one. The key again is where in China to live? What attracts expats to live in one of the four major cities in China: Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Tianjin? Let’s take a look one by one at what each of these cities has to offer expats. Giving credit where credit is due, as the Capital of China and

the heart of all things Chinese, let’s begin with 北京 beijing.

Beijing

Beijing has an official population of 22 million but as most large cities in China, you can probably add 20% to this total for the millions of migrant workers that are not officially registered. Beijing, in Chinese is 北京 beijing literally means, Northern Capital is also known as Peking from the earlier Romanization translation and is still carried by the famous Peking University and equally famous Peking Duck. All vehicles registered in Beijing carry the Chinese character 京 jīng.

From the 2010 national census, most foreigners in China lived in the capital. Why would a foreign family choose Beijing? Being the capital of the world’s second largest economy gives it several advantages for the city of choice. Most of the international companies and virtually all the State-Owned Enterprises SOEs are headquartered in Beijing. So if your main objective is to come to China for employment or business opportunities, many will choose Beijing.

However this is a doubled edged sword as it also makes Beijing the most competitive location. It is not uncommon for foreigners and new graduates seeking internship positions and willing to do it for little or no salary just to gain some experience. One strategy is to gain entry into the Beijing headquarters then request a transfer to a smaller subsidiary in order to avoid the behemoth office structure in some of the large companies. For example China National Petroleum Corporation CNPC or also known as Petro China has over 1.5 million employees, and that is after a major downsizing in the past decade.



Guomao, Beijing

How about things to do and cultural activities? Beijing has been China's capital for over 3000 years and there are a multitude of historical sites to visit. The top ones are: The Great Wall – multiple locations, my favorite is MuTianYu; The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Lama Temple and the lesser known, nearby Confucius Temple and Ming Tombs – Sacred Way to name a few. These sites are so extensive, that multiple visits are needed to do justice and usually this is no problem as you accompany your numerous visitor friends on their first time visit. There are also every kind of museum you can imagine, Historical, Fine Arts, Military and even a museum of Tap Water. Most are free and expect crowds on the weekends and holidays.

Sometimes, I think Beijing is the center of the world. Just look at the number of events that it hosts. It was the site of the last performance of world-renowned tenor, Luciano Pavarotti and most of the world's famous entertainers and sports figures. Every month, there are world leaders making official visits to Beijing.

As a result of the successful 2008 Olympics held in Beijing, there were extensive infrastructure improvements and the city has one of the most extensive subway systems and cheapest at 2rmb per ride and the world's largest airport. Travel to and from the capital is no problem even during the most peak holiday periods. Delays persist due to the high volume but seem to be improving. Not convinced? Then try the train, 35 minutes to Tianjin and 5 hours to Shanghai.

The Chinese reveres this historical capital. You may find people criticizing Beijing and Beijiners but hardly ever being disrespectful.

As a resident of Beijing, the foreigner will be able to benefit from this general attitude. Also everything works in Beijing, during the periods of power blackouts, Beijing was not affected and if there is a public mishap, it will only happen once and be fixed so that there are no reoccurrences. Again saving face is important and Beijing is the nation's face.

However all this comes at a price. The cost of living in Beijing is high, compared with other second and third tier cities. Accommodation is pricey especially in the city core but fortunately with an extensive and cheap public transportation system, you don't need to live in the center of the city. Safety is important and being the capital, I am sure it has the highest per capita surveillance and police system in China. I have always said that China is one of the safest countries in the world but Beijing would stand out and foreigners always get special attention. There is little physical crime in China and penalties are especially more drastic to criminals that target foreigners.

A note on schooling, education has always been a priority for the Chinese, so local schools are numerous. I suspect that most foreigners will tend to choose English speaking international schools, which there are several choices in the major cities that we have selected. Although the cost is high, facilities are excellent, so I hope the employer is paying.

The climate in Beijing is considered to be harsh and has 4 distinctive seasons, but coming from Canada, I consider the winters here to be mild and dry but the summers can be very hot and humid but thankfully only for a short period. Being dry and dusty most of the time, it leads to the obnoxious habit of spitting



Origin place of Tianjin

in public, something that the government should discourage, just as they fined people for spitting during SARS and it worked.

With the largest number of foreign residents and highest number of annual foreign visitors, Beijing has a wide array of international cuisines and regional Chinese restaurants. Most are authentic and believe it or not, many are observing no-smoking laws or at least providing a section for non-smokers. Although, I sometimes feel that this is like designating part of the swimming pool as the no-peeing area.

My friend Jordi, from Spain came to Beijing over 15 years ago and chose Beijing because of schooling for his two sons and his business opportunities was best in the capital. Jordi has built a successful business in Beijing and supplies high end Foosball games in entertainment centers and restaurants and bars near Beijing Universities. With over 70 universities and institutions of higher education in the city, Jordi feels that his first choice was correct. However, I pointed out to him that Tianjin is only an hour away and has over 20 universities.



Crowds in Beijing Metro



There are already four metro lines running in Tianjin.

While renting a second hand apartment is an option, ideally you should find a place where you are the first resident.

Tianjin

Next on the list and the place we call home is Tianjin. Tianjin is very close to Beijing. For 55 RMB and a mere 30 minutes of your time, you can get from Beijing to Tianjin on the express train. Fast, climate controlled and seats for each traveler you will be comfortable for the duration of your brief travel.

Once you arrive in Tianjin be it by train, plane, automobile or ship, you will find a big city with small town thinking. Tianjin at times feels like a small mid-west conservative town in the US, where new ideas will be met with apprehension and gossip will spread like wild fire. Expats still are a "sight" with old and young alike stopping to stare. This is changing though, as more and more expats and non-local Chinese move to Tianjin, the attitude towards "new" things is softening somewhat and hopefully will only get better with time.

Tianjin is changing fast. It seemed Tianjin was growing at a snail's pace for a while, with previously having only one metro line being a good representation of that fact. In the last few years, the fire has been lit and one of the biggest changes seen has been the expansion and improvement of the public transportation system. New electric buses have started to replace older diesel powered buses. The once lonely metro line 1, in many ways useless, as it didn't connect to anything and rarely went where you wanted to go; now is interconnected with the new lines 2, 3 and 9,

and by year end line 2 will be extended with a new stop at the Tianjin International Airport. Line 4 is in the planning stage and lines 5 and 6 are already being built. There are also talks of next year having a metro line directly connecting the Tianjin and Beijing airports.

Another big change has been the mega mall scene. Before Tianjin really only had BinJiangDao 滨江道 to offer as a big "retail" area. For expats familiar with Beijing and Shanghai, the BinJiangDao 滨江道 area would leave you wanting. Now, Tianjin has several mega malls to offer for those needing their

shopping fix. A few malls to mention are Galaxy Square 天津银河广场, Joy City 天津大悦城, Aqua City 天津水游城, WanDa Plaza 天津万达广场. These malls are much more in line with the shopping experience an expat would be looking for, offering international brands, eateries galore and huge indoor walking areas.

With transportation and shopping shaping up, next on the list is real estate. Tianjin real estate is improving, namely, new buildings are being built in almost every part of town. While renting a second hand apartment is an option, ideally you should find a place where you are the first resident. In Tianjin this is becoming more and more possible. Rent in Tianjin could be classified as neither cheap nor crazy expensive. For example a 100 square meter apartment could be rented for around 3000-3500 RMB per month. Your expat friends in Beijing or Shanghai will be hard pressed to find the same.

Thus with the major areas of life being covered, namely transportation, shopping, and housing, Tianjin has and is becoming a more and more viable choice for expats coming to China.



Galaxy Mall in Tianjin



The night view at the Bund

Shanghai

Shanghai is listed as China's highest urban populated city with over 26 million people. (Chongqing has more people but they are spread over an area that is urban and rural.) According to the Shanghai Statistics Bureau, there were about 160,000 foreigners registered as living in Shanghai in 2009 (not including Taiwanese, which are estimated to number over one million living in Shanghai).

The two Chinese characters in the city's name are ' ' (Shàng - "above") and ' ' (hǎi - "sea"), together meaning "Upon-the-Sea". There are disputes as to exactly how the name should be interpreted, but Chinese historians have concluded that during the Tang Dynasty, Shanghai was literally on the sea, hence the origin of the name.

Shanghai is officially abbreviated (Hù) in Chinese, this character appears on all motor vehicle license plates issued in the municipality today.

Huating was another early name for Shanghai. In 751 AD, during the mid-Tang Dynasty. Huating County was established at modern-day Songjiang, the first county-level administration within modern-day Shanghai. Today, Huating appears as the name of a four-star hotel in the city

Shanghai is recognized for its landmark, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower on the Pudong side of Huangpu River, overlooking the Bund.

If Beijing is known as China's political capital, then Shanghai is recognized as the business capital. Since the 1930's, Shanghai has been known to be the financial services center of China. Take a walk down the historical Bund and you will see the old financial and customs buildings which reflect

the importance of this era and across the river is the presence of the modern Pudong buildings with the highest buildings in Asia and the soon to be finished, Shanghai Tower with 127 floors and over 600 meters high.

The Shanghaiers are considered to be very cosmopolitan and fashionable. You won't see them spitting on the streets and they are well dressed with men in suits and ties and women wearing the latest fashions. Shanghai husbands are considered homebodies and obedient, doing cooking and housework, something they are proud of while other country refer to as being henpecked. However, the local Shanghainese tend to speak their own dialect and I find are more private than other Chinese, unless you are willing to learn some Shanghai dialect, which is more difficult in my opinion than Putonghua – Mandarin.



Shanghai Longdang

Although Shanghai is modern and has a much shorter history than other Chinese cities, there is an abundance of cultural and entertaining venues. The Shanghai Museum is one of the best in the world and like most Chinese museums is free, so try to avoid weekends and holidays. The Expo held in 2010 was a great success, with over 200 country pavilions, the China Pavilion still remains, but you have to pay. You also have to pay for the Museum of Old Shanghai at the bottom of the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, but it's worth it.

Shanghai boasts some of the most elegant hotels and restaurants in the world. Try having an evening drink at the Peninsula Hotel patio bar, the best view of the Bund and Pudong or have dinner at the other side at the 94th floor Park Hyatt hotel or other restaurants that link up against the Huangpu River. You can even take a river cruise along the river during the evening to see a spectacular evening light of both sides.

Transportation for this city is no problem as it boasts two international airports and an extremely efficient train and subway system. It even has a Maglev train that speeds over 400 kmph – but goes nowhere.

The weather is humid and wet but this means a much cleaner city than the north, if you can withstand the dampness and cold damp of winter, since there is no central heating in Shanghai. In the summer, be prepared for hot, humid temperatures of over 40 and the noisy cicadas.

Real estate in Shanghai is probably the most expensive in China, which means the new expat will have to consider the suburbs but the subway system is extensive, just have to get used to commuting with the crowds. But if you come to China with a positive attitude and with an outlook of adventure to experience a new culture, you will be fine.

My friend, Lee came from Canada and chose Shanghai because it is an exciting cosmopolitan city with plenty of action. Lee now works at one of Consulates and has exposure to many international diplomatic functions. She is a gourmet and there are endless examples of world class restaurants such as Giovanni's, Jean-Georges and M on the Bund to mention a few. Lee's food desires also includes Chinese cuisine such as Huaiyang cuisine, encompassing the coastal areas of eastern China, and said to require the most skill, aims to preserve the basic flavor of each ingredient in order to achieve balance and freshness. Lee loves the food, weather and the many activities in Shanghai.



Changjiang Ropeway in Chongqing

Chongqing

What about Chongqing (重庆 Chóngqìng)? Like the other 3 cities (北京 běijīng, 天津 tiānjīn, 上海 shànghǎi, 重庆 chóngqìng) it is directly controlled by the Chinese central government 直辖市 zhíxiáshì, Chongqing also has its official abbreviation in Chinese, that is 渝 Yú. When talking with a veteran expat in Chongqing, it was described as the "wild west" of China. This I find interesting, as China in itself as a whole feels a bit like the "wild west". Thus, perhaps Chongqing shall be the "wild west of the wild west"? I guess that makes Chongqing pretty "wild".

As to population, like most things in China, it is not small. Wikipedia states over 29 million folks call Chongqing home, and yes those numbers appear to be rising not decreasing with time. It has the standard mix of "luxury" and "less than luxurious". Namely those with more money than they know what to do with, i.e. fast cars, flashy clothes and name brand everything; living along with folks from the countryside with little to no economic buying power. As usual the country folk bring country life to the Chongqing city. So you will see an ongoing clash of posh vs. loss.

Like so many places in China, Chongqing has plenty of construction going on. Out with the old and in with the new. High rises are the name of the game along with other major development. Who's investing in Chongqing? First and foremost it appears to be the Chinese Central government. Big money and big support from the Chinese government has been given to Chongqing. In addition foreign businesses are building their brands in Chongqing. Hewlett-Packard has been a major

No matter where you choose to live in China, do pack your patience and flexibility. You will need to roll with the punches and expect the unexpected.



The Liberation Monument, a landmark in Chongqing

employer in Chongqing since 2005. US giant Wal-Mart lists 10 locations in Chongqing on its official website, and Starbucks doesn't seem to be letting the Chongqing market slip by, as they list 24 locations in Chongqing on their website. Bottom line, be it Chinese or foreign capital, large investments are being made into Chongqing. With such, the future of Chongqing is interesting and may well draw other expats to Chongqing.

Outside of economics, Chongqing weather may not be everyone's cup of tea. Air quality like many big cities tends to be less than perfect. Summers include high humidity and temperatures often being near or above 40 degrees Celsius. Winter is also a challenge with temperatures of 5 degrees Celsius or lower and there is no public heating provided.

As to what it takes for an expat to be successful in Chongqing, Jim Summers an expat living in Chongqing for years, feels expats either need a good network of locals who speak Chinese natively, or they themselves should be able to speak Chinese. This is in line with a trend appearing throughout China, namely expats who do not speak Chinese are at a disadvantage. Many locals in Chongqing do not speak English. So if you want to have a meaningful relationship with them, be it for business or social reasons, you better start learning some Chinese.

Don't come to Chongqing penniless. Depending on the level of life you want to live, including things like the size of your apartment and how often you want to indulge in western food vs. local eats, your monthly budget should allow for about \$1500-\$2000 US monthly.

The Bottom Line

Where does all of this leave us? At current any of the four cities, be it 北京 běijīng tiānjīn shànghǎi or chóngqìng are a viable choice for an expat. Beijing is big and has the irresistible lure of "capital city" life. Tianjin the little brother next door is growing up fast. With a rapidly expanding metro, new malls and homes being built, along with a more moderate cost of living, it is a solid choice as well. Shanghai is the undisputed financial hub of China and attracts expats seeking the cool of cosmopolitan life. Lastly Chongqing is a massive city with a mix of old town with new town, drawing international businesses interested in catching the China wave. No matter where you choose to live in China, do pack your patience and flexibility. You will need to roll with the punches and expect the unexpected. With approximately 600,000 expats already living in China, why not consider adding your name to the list?



In a football match

“It reflects the changes in TEDA. More and more foreign companies have come here and with them, foreign experts from all over the world.” With players from 22 nations, ages spanning 5 decades and both sexes represented, it’s a true cross section of the expat community.

Football, a Universal Language

By Robert Watt

足球，我们共同的语言

在一个温暖的下午，一场足球赛即将在塘沽实验中学举行。滨海国际足球俱乐部的队员们正在为本周的比赛进行热身。看台上坐着球员的女友们和俱乐部的经理张彦。

张彦在3年前成立了这个俱乐部。每个周末的比赛对所有的队员和张彦来说都是生活中十分重要的部分。张彦本身就是个足球迷，她一手创建的俱乐部现在已经在天津非常有名了。按她自己的话说：“拥有自己的球队一直是我的梦想！”

2011年5月，张彦的几个意大利同事希望她能帮助组织一场足球赛。于是，她率领着由5个老外和几个中国朋友组成的足球队和本地一支球队进行了一场比赛。对手看起来比他们要专业得多，但张彦认为她也可以做到。最初，他们需要自己找球队和他们打比赛。队员们一起买了队服，张彦自己开着车带着队员到处比赛。很快，越来越多的队伍找上门来要和他们一决高下。

每次比赛前，张彦都要组织两队进行合影。她的队员分别来自加拿大、波兰、德国、英国、日本和中国。比赛前的气氛非常友好，互相握手，大家说说笑笑。

比赛开始以后，张彦总是在场边喊得最卖力的那个人。她每次都会认真记录比赛情况，比如参赛队员名单，谁进了球。她说：“我们会评选出每场的‘最佳球员’，赛季末还会评选金靴奖、最佳新人和最有价值球员。这在队内形成一种竞争，每次评选‘最佳球员’都会让大家对当天的表现有一个反思。”

半场休息的时候，张彦不但要继续鼓励球员们，还会把准备好的水、咖啡、热巧克力发到队员手中。几乎每个队员都会打满半场，张彦指派的队长Helder负责人员调配。Helder还会在一个小白板上给大家讲解战术。虽然气氛很轻松活跃，但每个人都对比赛认真对待。

张彦说：“本赛季我们队伍已经扩展到19个队员了。这也反映出滨海新区这几年的变化。越来越多的外国企业来这里投资，也带来更多来自世界各地的外国员工。”这支队伍里曾有过22个国家的队员，年龄横跨50岁，男女都有，这真是一个跨文化的外籍社区。

说到管理球队的秘诀，张彦认为“专业”是最重要的一点。“我们有队名、口号、赞助商和横幅。我们还有队伍章程，每个人都要签字并遵守。我们定期还会开会，举办团队建设活动，赛季末还会有颁奖活动。我们不只是为了好玩，我们还要赢得比赛！”

张彦的球队走到哪里都很受欢迎。有专业的摄影师做志愿者为大家拍照，主队经常主动承担全部场地费，餐厅也愿意免费提供用餐。张彦说：“大家都对我们很慷慨！”

张彦专业化的管理和凝聚力已经取得了很好的成果。俱乐部的成员不分性别和国籍，张彦说：“是共同的兴趣把我们聚在一起，我们只说一种语言，那就是足球。”

It’s a warmer afternoon on the field of Tanggu ShiYan school. The overhead haze glows brightly and the artificial grass looks lush against the greys of sky and apartment blocks. Binhai International Football Club is warming up for this week’s match against Liu Sheng Yuan. Watching from the sidelines are a couple of loyal girlfriends, the team photographer and their enthusiastic manager Zhang Yan.

It’s a regular Saturday afternoon for Yan, who has managed the team since she founded it nearly 3 years ago. The match, for the players, is a pivotal part of the weekend and for Yan, another chance to see the team she created and has nurtured into one of the most well known clubs in Tianjin.

Yan was born in the Tianjin area and apart from 4 years spent studying Economics in Toronto, has always lived here. A life-long fan of football, she says, “It’s a dream come true to have my own team.”

The club started, in May 2011, when she was asked by some Italian colleagues to organise a match. “In the first game,” she recalls, “we turned up with 5 expat players and some Chinese friends to play against a local team”. The opposition had a football strip with their names on and looked more professional, more organised and more of a team. She thought “I could do something like that.”

At the beginning they only met when they found a team to play against. The players clubbed together and bought some shirts and Yan used her own car to move people around. “But,” said Yan. “Once we had played a few games, things quickly snowballed. Local people wanted

to play against us.”

Before the match begins, Yan gets both teams together for the traditional group photograph, taken by official photographer Wu Yan. Canadian, Polish, German, British, Japanese as well as Chinese stand shoulder to shoulder. There is some laughter, a lot of smiling and hand shaking before breaking away onto the separate halves of the field.

The match starts shakily and despite a lot of encouraging cheers from Yan, the foreigners are soon a goal behind. She isn’t worried though. The expats gradually settle into the game and start to threaten the oppositions goal. Two certain chances are missed before her confidence is confirmed by the equalizer. Yan is screaming on the sideline in celebration, then adds the scorers names into her book. “I keep records of who plays and who scores” she explains. “Later we all vote for ‘man of the match’. At the end of the season we have awards for golden boot, best new player and the most times winner of man of the match. It provides a bit of competition within the team and voting for MOM makes us reflect on our performances.”

The half time whistle blows and the players wander off the pitch. It’s another busy time for Yan who is full of congratulations and encouragement for her players, as well as the odd joke at some mistakes. She has organised the bottled water. Cups of coffee and hot Chocolate arrive from the nearby McDonalds.

Everyone on the team plays at least half the match. It means significant team changes for the second half. Helder, who Yan has appointed captain, is responsible for balancing the ability of players. He explains the strategy using a small white board and marker pen. There is a buzz of excitement and enthusiasm, the atmosphere is relaxed, but everyone is taking the game seriously.

The second half starts like the first with the conceding of an early goal. It’s a problem with all the changes “We have grown to 19 players this season” says Yan. “It reflects the changes in TEDA. More and more foreign companies have come here and with them, foreign experts from all over the world.” With players from 22 nations, ages spanning 5 decades and both sexes represented, it’s a true cross section of the expat community. But, the secret of its success, Yan believes, is in her management approach. “Although we are not a professional team, I organise it in a professional way. We have a name, a slogan, sponsorship and a strip. We also have a constitution that everyone has to sign, regular team meetings, team building activities and of course, awards at the



Yan and Henri

end of the season. I believe these things are important because, while we are only playing for fun, we also want to win. To do that you have to take a professional approach to the game. We have to be a team.”

Its certainly well organised. It has all the trappings and appearances of a premier league match. “At the beginning”, she says. “I had to spend a lot of time finding teams to play against. But now we are well known and I get phone calls from teams asking to play us.

Part of their notoriety comes from the publicity. Yan started by putting up posters in the major places of TEDA. Then they had articles in the Jinwan newspaper, Morning Post and Tianjin Daily. Last season they appeared on local TV and in the China Daily. “We are very well known throughout Tianjin and the Binhai area,” says Yan. “The team members and myself often get recognised because of the publicity and because of the huge number of people that we’ve played against.”

Another indication of how far Yan has taken

the team is their sponsorship by Etola whose name and logo emblazons their blue football strip. Henri, the CEO in China, says “Yan is so enthusiastic and positive, she has built something that’s an important contribution to local relations.”

The game has progressed into the final fifteen minutes. To the jubilation of Yan, her team are now a goal ahead. The match is evenly balanced and some of the players are clearly tired. It’s the point in the game where passions and frustrations can lead to errors, careless tackles and irritability. But there is never any serious trouble in the games. The constitution, that everyone has signed, makes it clear what behaviour is expected. Their fair play helps make the team popular to compete against.

Another measure of their popularity is the help they are offered. The photographer voluntarily attends every match and team social event, host teams often refuse payment for the playing field and restaurants host free dinners. As Yan says, “The local people are very generous towards us”

When the final whistle blows, Binhai International has won by 2 goals. It’s a victory against a generally younger, faster and more skilful opposition. Helder reflects “It’s a team game and we won because we played as a team.”

The players walk off the pitch. Yan is waiting with a large pack of cold beers. There is some post match analysis, but mostly, the talk is of celebrations later that night.

Her management style clearly produces results. You can see the respect the players have for her and for what she does for the club. They are a close team where gender and nationality are unimportant. As Yan says “We all come together for one common interest. We all speak one language: Football!”



Team photo

选个号码开始天津生活

我们的联络方式在过去的十年间发生了巨大的变化，手机代替了固话成为人们最主要的沟通工具。无论搬到世界的任何一个角落，你总会需要一部手机或者一个当地的号码帮助你开始新生活。因此，来到天津生活的外国人，也非常有必要提前熟悉一下本地主要移动通信运营商的情况，比如中国移动通信集团公司CHINA MOBILE，中国电信集团公司 CHINA TELECOM，中国联合通信有限公司CHINA UNICOM。

首先，我建议充分了解套餐所包含的业务。在你选择好手机号并开通之后，移动运营商通常会设置一个“默认套餐”，而这款“默认套餐”往往并不能充分满足用户的各项需求，此时就需要你充分去了解该移动运营商所提供的所有套餐种类，从中选取一个最适合你的套餐类型。

然后，如果生活、工作环境发生改变，要及时修改套餐类型。例如在校园里的留学生们，一般发短信比较多，这时候需要选择一款发短信更加优惠的套餐。当你从校园中走出来，走上工作岗位的时候，你会发现自己越来越懒的发短信，这时候需要及时将自己的套餐类型更改为语音通讯更加优惠的套餐。

最后，及时查询套餐内剩余资源数量。每到月度中旬的时候，查询一下本月套餐中剩余资源的数量，可以让你在下半月合理支配剩余资源。有些电信运营商有这样的定制服务，每当套餐资源剩余不多的时候，会发信息提示，大家不妨尝试一下。力求在保障自己通讯需求的前提下使手机费降到最低。

当然，最重要的一点就是，如果你的中文水平还不够理想，那么还是带一名会中文的朋友和你一起去营业厅办理相关业务吧。因为据我所知，营业厅里的客户代表和业务员目前都不会讲英语。

What's all the talk about? Choosing a cell phone service provider in Tianjin

by Carmen King

No matter who you are or where you live, chances are you have a cell phone. To say cell phones are common place is almost an understatement; in many cases it is as if the cell phone has become an inseparable part of ones body. Perhaps nowhere is this truer than in China. With Tianjin being one of the major cities in China, in the latter part of 2011 the Tianjin government reported a total city population of over 13 million (20111354.58). With so many people calling Tianjin home, the cell phone business is big here. This article will focus on choosing a cell phone service provider in Tianjin.

Here in Tianjin like many other cities in China, the three major cell phone service providers are China Mobile , China Unicom and China Telecom . China Mobile based on Wikipedia has nearly 750 million subscribers and employs over 180 thousand people; China Unicom is listed with over 300 million users and over 200 thousand employees; rounding out the top three is China Telecom with their total number of users being unlisted.

What do these three providers have to offer? First let's get a quick lay of the land. For those familiar with the western world, think of China Mobile as Verizon, China Unicom as Sprint and China Telecom as the "other" choice. As the biggest and largest cell phone provider China Mobile features an extensive wireless network.



Texting via phone

They typically focus on the "quality of signal" as the major selling point. China Unicom tends to focus on "data" and "more economical" as their key selling points. China Telecom on the other hand makes a point to talk about "reduced radiation" as a top feature.

China Mobile like Verizon abroad, tends not

Here in Tianjin like many other cities in China, the three major cell phone service providers are China Mobile 中国移动, China Unicom 中国联通 and China Telecom 中国电信.

to be the cheapest choice in town. As stated, generally speaking their cell phone signal is pretty solid. Most Tianjin residents, when asked, will say the same, China Mobile has the best service as it relates to call quality and little to no dropped calls. The down side to China mobile outside of price is also their data service. Data service tends to be not as fast when compared with other service providers. So when you think of China Mobile, think of comprehensive coverage.

For our expats out there, it should be noted that not all China Mobile plans support "roaming", either countrywide inside of China or overseas. Some plans give a flat rate for all calls within China, thus expats moving around throughout China for personal, business or travel reasons will find such plans very convenient. With these flat rate plans, you will not be



Talking through photo

charged any additional fees for answering or making calls, regardless of where you are in China. However, if you don't plan on leaving Tianjin during your stay in China, you can select a "local" calling plan.

Outside of selecting a plan based on where you will be most of the time, double check if your plan includes sufficient internet allowance. Unlike many plans overseas that are offering "unlimited data" most plans here only allow for a specific amount of bandwidth usage per month. Exceeding this download limit will result in unreasonable surcharges. Pick a plan that includes a sufficient amount of monthly minutes, data, and text messages. Text messages are also usually not unlimited, so you will need to figure out roughly how many texts per month you think will be enough. However, text messages are not super expensive in most cases if you go over your plan allotment. Often they are only 0.10 RMB per text.

China Unicom gives users a bit more bang for their Yuan. In addition to offering users more minutes per Yuan many of China Unicom plans provide countrywide flat rate calling. Meaning you can freely travel throughout China without incurring any additional surcharges for answering or making phone calls. Data plans are fairly reasonable and data speeds are not bad. Buyer beware though, call quality may in some cases be lacking. Namely strength of signal or the lack thereof can and will rear its ugly head at less than convenient times. Sometimes you simply will not be able to make or receive a phone call, or you will drop a call all together. While this signal issue is not outrageous, it also isn't great. Thus depending on how much you

A few things are common across the board for all three providers.

use your cell phone and how much money you have in your budget you may just choose to go with China Mobile, which overall does offer better cell phone coverage and call clarity.

China Telecom is nowhere near as large as either China Mobile or China Unicom yet it is a legitimate choice for cell phone service. As mentioned earlier, China Telecom sales reps will stress the health benefits of their cell phone service, namely reduced cellular radiation for users. For example if a phone from China Mobile or China Unicom is near a television, before the phone rings, there will be some buzzing or some other type of sound emitted from the television thus letting someone nearby know a "call" is about to arrive. China Telecom handsets will not produce such signal interference. Outside of alleged reduced radiation, China Telecom service is passable. Call quality is acceptable and network coverage includes most major cities.

A few things are common across the board for all three providers. First, if you are planning on getting a phone number and service plan from any of these companies, you will need to take



your passport. In recent times, China has become stricter in its requirement that cell phone users provide their real name and official form of identification when purchasing cell phone service.

Second, all three providers operate on a pre-paid basis, namely you will select a monthly service plan and then via recharge cards or other means, "pre-pay" for your service. Each month on the first of the month you need to pre-pay for that month of service. Your service will stay active until the end of that month, or until you use up all your pre-paid credit, which on occasion happens before the end of the month, if you having roaming charges, exceed your monthly minutes, text message or bandwidth allotment. In such cases you will need to immediately add credit to your number or risk having your number temporarily disabled, or even completely terminated if you don't pay off your balance within a relatively short period of time.

Third, while these three providers all offer "international" phone service, meaning if you travel outside of China you may still be able to make and receive calls, you need to pre-pay anywhere from 200-500 RMB to have this "feature" activated. As you make calls, the costs of these international calls will be deducted from this pre-paid balance. In addition, the per minute calling rates are not always the cheapest so you may find other phone options to be more viable when traveling outside of China.

In conclusion, be it China Mobile , China Unicom , or China Telecom choosing a cell phone provider isn't a huge ordeal. However as usual, brush up on your Chinese skills or take a Chinese friend with you when going to get a number and monthly plan as sales reps for all these companies will be speaking Chinese and only Chinese!

中国是制造型企业的乐园吗? (二)

上一期我们谈到了中国大环境对外国投资者的优势。这一期我们来说说投资者需要注意和规避的风险。

其实,基础设施、土地、物业、法律、政府、员工、语言、安全、经济、货币、关税、税务以及其他“额外”成本都有可能盖过所有优势条件,除非你能够小心谨慎地应对这些挑战,同时具备应对这些挑战的经验和技能。首先,这里的土地价格比欧美国家的土地价格还要高。有些地方的工业用地只允许长期租赁,其中还有一些土地还是一片沼泽地,需要改造,这会大大增加基础建设的成本。

语言障碍仍然是个问题。在中国,能够熟练掌握和运用英语的人还是很小一部分,所以聘用专职翻译的成本不能免去。更为严重的是文化差异问题,这时常会在工作中产生误会,造成经济损失或损害人际关系。

在处理法律事务上你也要非常小心。由于中国的法制体系和欧美国家有很多不同,所以你需要一个专业且资深的法律顾问帮你处理这些问题。

政府事务专员也是不可缺少的人员配备。他必须知道如何和政府打交道才能巩固公司和政府的关系。你和政府的关系可能会对你的公司产生至关重要的影响。在一些定位为具有特殊战略意义的项目上,政府会指派特定的顾问参与你的项目,在一些重要的问题上进行把关。

外资企业在中国遇到的最大问题是知识产权保护的问题。很多跨国企业都没能找到一个理想的方案来解决这个问题,商业秘密被泄露给竞争对手的事情数不胜数。所以,建立一个强大的信息安全系统来防止信息外泄是非常重要的。上面我们提到的那些顾问和离职的员工也有可能在你公司的合约结束后把你公司的信息透露给其他雇主。所以,你有可能要提高人工成本来尽量留住这些员工。

在中国的基础设施费用,比如电和天然气也比一些欧美国家要高。甚至有些地方没有天然气供应,你只能使用液化气。工业用气由于供应有限也会比较贵。

汇率浮动等宏观经济因素也会对你的生意产生影响。这些都是你无法掌控的因素。另外,我们面临着很高的进口关税,所以只能选择中国产的产品或承担高额关税从而增加总成本。

还有一些需要对投资者预警的事项。中国的经济、政治、财经和竞争环境都与欧美国家有很多不同。当然这是一个充满机遇的国家,但同时也有很多风险和挑战。你必须提前做好功课和准备来应对这些问题才能避免落入任何一个陷阱。

Manufacturing in China: Why, why not and how? (Part 2)

by Moe ElGhareeb



Careful calculation and analysis before making investment

The Profit Hunter© Diary

The Profit Hunter© Diary continues with more real-time unedited business & technology management and entrepreneurship digests from China and emerging markets brought to you by Moe "The Profit Hunter"©

Last month we spoke about the great advantages on the macro economic and political scale for investing and manufacturing in China. We discussed the pros of being close to new and existing customers and using the geographic location to raise new interest and penetrate new markets. We also discussed the supreme market size and the reduced costs when it comes to labor, materials, equipment and taxes as attractive points that support the cause of manufacturing in China.

We also established that as an intermediary stage and if for some reason you think that you're not looking forward to the more complex Chinese market with its many challenges and risks, you can always look towards Malaysia as a stepping stone into Asia as it has most of China's advantages and avoids most of its disadvantages. But what exactly are those risks and disadvantages of working in China?

Why and how can issues such as utilities, land, property, laws, government, employees, language, safety, economic, currency, tariffs, taxes and "extra" costs be such a disadvantage that can render all the advantages of working in China useless unless these challenges are treated very carefully and maneuvered with the necessary experience and skills?

For starters, land is much more expensive in China relative to the total cost of your project and even in absolute value meter-for-meter compared to industrial land in most western countries. Some locations do not allow land sale but only allow the long term rental of industrial land for 50 years and in many regions the leased land will need to be prepared due to the swamp-like composition of lands close to ocean shores (which are the lands you'd generally want to lease or buy if possible) which will increase your total facility building costs.

Another big issue in China is the difficult language and the small number of correct English speakers which might cause some extra costs for translators and interpreters to facilitate information flow. Moreover, there is a severe culture difference that can create misunderstandings which can be costly in terms of money and public relations. Also you have to understand that personal relations in China can interfere strongly with doing business as we discussed earlier in this series, so keep that in mind.

The legal environment is also a huge challenge to understand and navigate. While

laws are not as complicated as western legal systems, the actual legal process is very bumpy and needs specialized legal counsels who can work around the hiccups you'd certainly meet during the course of your work in China. It is also highly advisable to have legal counselors specialized in working with MNCs and foreign investors review each and every legal document you'll work with including contracts with suppliers, clients and even the government.

It is also highly recommended to have a government relations officer who would know the way around government officials and understand how to work with them and reinforce your company's relationship with the local and sometimes central government officials as needed for your organization. I can't stress enough on how important it is to develop and maintain a good relationship with

Which brings us to the most severe issue that you might face in China. Intellectual property rights.

government officials who can either aid you with your objective or hinder your growth if any misunderstandings should arise between your company and the government. You also have to understand that the government has some strict rules regarding some industries that might force you to hire certain government appointed consultants to be able to use their experience in addressing certain issues especially when it comes to industries that are deemed strategic by the government.

Which brings us to the most severe issue that you might face in China. Intellectual property rights. This is by far the biggest problem foreign manufacturers face in China and many have failed to find a solution to it and left the market all-together due to the catastrophic effect it had on their business. In many documented cases, industrial trade secrets where somehow leaked to competitors who readily started creating copies of the same products created by MNCs at much reduced costs because they did not incur the costs of research and development along with the severe associated costs.

It is therefore highly advisable to set a strong information security system to stop

information leak and protect your investment. There is also the issue of the aforementioned consultants who might fall in mistake of revealing some of your internal trade secrets to other clients who hire them later after they finish their contract with your company. There are numerous reports about companies loosing huge capital investments to cheaper knock-offs that sprawled out of small-time manufacturers that came out of no where. The important thing to notice here is that this intellectual property theft issue does not usually happen to Chinese companies because they know how to navigate the legal ramifications that follow such challenges so it's a good idea to hire a legal consultant who can deal with the authorities to get you your rights back if and when there stolen.

Some Western corporations who couldn't deal with the intellectual property theft issue found a work-around that seems to be working for them. The only manufacture well known products or components in China, which even if leaked would not hurt their operation because of their lower-tech nature while manufacturing the high-tech components in their home countries where they know how to maneuver the legal environment enough to restore their information rights or stop the information leaks all-together. This is definitely advisable if you work in a field that relies on advanced research-reliant components.

Another related issue is the migration of the workforce in China and the nature of operators and workers to change companies a lot. It is very common that workers leave companies yearly after the Chinese New Year and change employers for ones who pay more in exchange for one more year of experience in their field. While no one can blame them for trying to better their circumstances and their wages a little bit, it might be a problem that your workers who know the details of your trade and the secrets of your products leave you to go work for your competitors who might be able to extract some of the knowledge for their benefit and use it against you as a competitive advantage. There is also the issue of retraining new workers after your team leaves you which might gradually make increasing the current team's wage a better option even if this means that you gradually lose the reduced cost advantage.

Other challenges and disadvantages of manufacturing in China include utility costs which can be much higher than western countries. Electricity and natural gas in particular



The high land price will increase total facility building cost

are much more expensive than in Europe and the US for various reasons. Also note that you might not be able to get direct natural gas in many areas and will have to rely on liquidated pressurized gas. On a related note, industrial gasses (nitrogen, hydrogen and helium) are also much more expensive than in Western countries due to the relatively limited supply of such gasses in China.

Macro economics can also play against you in some cases as in currency fluctuations and instability which can render your expenditures in Euros or Dollars more costly than they should be. This issue is specially difficult to face as you have no control over exchange rates. Tariffs and importation regulations are also quite problematic because many products that are manufactured in China are faced with high importation tariffs which can either force you to use locally manufactured products or pay the higher than usual import tariff thus increasing your total cost and eventually your selling prices.

These are all some issue that your will certainly face in China and so here we provide an early warning and give a heads-up to investors coming to China so they can come ready for the very different economic, political, financial and competitive climate here. China is certainly a land of opportunity but it is also a land of risk and challenge so be prepared and do your homework in learning to navigate these speed-bumps in advance to avoid the possible set-backs if you fall into one or more of these pits.

Next month we discuss different challenges you might face regarding quality fade and the difficult time you'll have to go through when dealing with manufacturing facilities and their owners, the industrialists who make this whole contract manufacturing game tick. Until then, happy profit hunting!

Please send your comments and questions to Moe via moghareeb@gmail.com

有梦想的年轻主厨

出生于餐饮世家的费尔南多·卡罗纳先生梦想拥有自己的餐厅。拥有着多元国际背景的他，如今担任天津海河悦榕庄酒店的厨师长。拥有如此重要的职位可不是件易事。费尔南多先生经历了许许多多的挑战，最终让他掌握了世界美食的精髓。今天我们很荣幸采访到这位既热情又有远见的厨师长。

费尔南多从小成长于餐饮世家，自从中学的时候就立志从事烹饪行业。他的专业厨师生涯开始于西班牙的一家米其林三星餐厅并获得了圣佩莱格里诺世界最佳厨艺奖。之后他分别在阿联酋、澳门、上海、墨西哥等大型酒店工作过。在上海悦榕庄酒店，他获得了第一厨师长的职位。但是费尔南多意识到他要寻求更多的挑战和发展。

在天津海河悦榕庄酒店，费尔南多找到了他想要的灵感和挑战。他说，厨师长并不是像大多数人想的那样只顾烹饪。他的大多数工作时间都在参与会议、写报告、培训员工、监督食物的品质并保证所有客人都享受到最好的服务。费尔南多和他的天津团队在天津面临的最大的挑战就是语言问题，目前不得不通过翻译来交流。其实适应当地生活是费尔南多最重要的能力之一，熟悉当地市场，接受当地食物的味道。

费尔南多用心做出的精致料理一定会给天津的食客们带来全新的体验。我们祝福他和妻子的新生活，也感谢他为天津带来的新灵感。

A Young Executive Chef's Dream

By Daniel McCool

Coming from a family of passionate restaurateurs, Mr. Fernando Corona dreams of one day opening his own restaurant. With a diverse international background at his disposal, he is currently serving as Executive Chef at Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside Hotel. Holding this distinguished position is no cake walk, however, but poses the many challenges which have brought him to the opposite side of the world from his native Mexico. I had the pleasure of

meeting with Fernando to hear his insights into working as an executive chef in China and found him to be not only passionate, but insightful. It is my pleasure to introduce you to him here.

Fernando's ancestors were Spanish and he has been surrounded by family and cooking since he was a young boy – and it was in high school that he decided he wanted to study and devote his life to cooking. He began his professional career with the opportunity of serving as Chef de

Partie at the Celler de Can Roca in Catalunya, Spain, a 3-star Michelin restaurant and past winner of San Pellegrino's best-in-the-world award. Since then, he has also worked in the UAE, Macau, Shanghai, and Mexico (where he began his affiliation with Banyan Tree hotels). In Shanghai, he enjoyed his first Executive Chef title at the Banyan Tree on the Bund. Despite the already-established culinary success of the hotel, he was still looking for the challenges he knew he needed in order to continue developing.

At the Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside, Fernando has found fresh challenges that keep him devoted to and inspired by his profession. The Executive Chef title, he says, it not what most people think it is about, however: he spends most of his time, not cooking, but attending meetings, filing reports, training staff, and overseeing the quality of preparation, ensuring his patrons

Adapting is, however, one of Fernando's most valued skills: it is important, he says, to be able to adapt to local markets and taste, and one must be flexible and adaptive to the patron's desires.

enjoy the best of what the hotel has to offer. While being highly important, communication is a particular challenge as his team is comprised mostly of Tianjin locals – their English is not entirely fluent and he often relies on the presence of an interpreter. Adapting is, however, one of Fernando's most valued skills: it is important, he says, to be able to adapt to local markets and taste, and one must be flexible and adaptive to the patron's desires. Coming from a family strong in its ties, his final top-three difficulty is that of relationships: the busy life of Executive Chef leaves little free time and friends are often transitory, moving and changing as their lives demand.

Despite the many challenges being faced, Fernando has a lot to be proud of, and I am impressed at his rapid accomplishments in his mere six-year tenure in his profession. His greatest professional accomplishment, he says, has been his progress from trainee at the Celler de Can Roca to his now Executive Chef title in only 8 years. His greatest personal accomplishment, he says, is that, 6 weeks ago, his wife was confirmed to be pregnant. An Anhui native, he met his Chinese wife while working at the Banyan Tree on the Bund in Shanghai.

Patrons will certainly enjoy their dining experience at the Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside, owing to Fernando's diverse expertise and dedication to his art. I wish Fernando and his wife the best of luck and thank him for his inspiration.



Fernando Corona, Executive Chef at Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside Hotel

Past Events

Monthly Executive Breakfast Briefing February 27, Thursday—Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe

AmCham China Tianjin, together with the European Chamber in Tianjin, recently hosted a breakfast seminar with Eric Emerson, partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP. Eric spoke at this joint chamber event on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and China's Free Trade Agreements. He provided some insights on what these agreements contain, how they operate, how they relate to each other and how they affect companies operating in the region.

The event was well attended by members from different industries and attendees were very active during the Q&A session.



Exclusive Meeting with the Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs of U.S. Embassy in Beijing Friday, March 7

On March 7, AmCham China, Tianjin organized a special event for members to meet with Mr. Hanscom Smith, Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the US Embassy in Beijing. The meeting gave members an opportunity to discuss their company's operations in Tianjin and member representatives shared their views on local economic development in the region with Mr. Hanscom Smith.



Exclusive Luncheon with the delegation of the National Center on Education (NCEE) Friday, March 14, Hotel Nikko Tianjin

Several AmCham China, Tianjin member representatives joined the luncheon with the delegation of the National Center on Education (NCEE) on March 14 at the Hotel Nikko Tianjin. The delegation was led by Mr. Marc S. Tucker, president of NCEE and the former associate director of the National Institute of Education in the United States. Tucker and a team of researchers affiliated with NCEE have visited Switzerland, Singapore, Australia and Denmark and are now in China conducting a study of the world's leading systems of vocational education. AmCham members shared their insights on China's transformation to a market economy, development and recruitment of skilled labor and the development of corporate operations in China during the lunch.



Tianjin Monthly Women's Professional Committee (WPC) Executive Lunch Speaking the Five Love Languages February 27, Thursday—Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe

AmCham China Tianjin held its monthly WPC lunch on February 27 at Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe. During the event, Andrea Klopper, intercultural training consultant at LDi Training, used several objects explaining how to speak the five love languages based on the seminal work of American Gary Chapman who is an internationally respected marriage and family life expert. Ladies enjoyed the fantastic set lunch provided by Hotel Indigo as well as the opportunity to network with old and new friends!



Upcoming Events

Monthly Executive Breakfast Briefing
April 17, 7:15—9:00 AM
The St. Regis Tianjin

Monthly Women's Professional Committee (WPC) Executive Lunch
April 24, 12:00—14:00 PM
Venue TBD

AmCham China, Tianjin Thirteenth Annual Charity Golf Tournament
May 24th, 10:00AM—8:00PM
Venue: Tianjin Eco-city International Country Club



EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

SME Workshop - Drafting Contracts in China: Dos and Don'ts to Ensure Smooth Running for SMEs 26 February, 2014

The China IPR SME Helpdesk and the EU SME Centre supported European Chamber Tianjin Chapter with an afternoon seminar on how SMEs can use contracts to effectively protect their business in China. The audiences received practical advice from their China experts focusing on following issues:

- How to avoid common contractual errors which lead to loss of technology, know-how and competitiveness
- Practical and useful tips on how to protect your business
- How to write strong contracts which can protect your products and your company while doing business in China

Some of them also attended a free one-on-one consultation session discussing individual questions afterwards.



InterChamber Breakfast Briefing: The Trans-Pacific Partnership and China's Foreign Trade Agreements 27 February, 2014

In cooperation with AmCham, the European Chamber Tianjin Chapter successfully organized the breakfast briefing for a discussion on Trans-Pacific Partnership by inviting Mr. Eric Emerson, a Beijing-based partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, provided some insights on what these agreements contain, how they operate, how they relate to each other and how they affect companies operating in the region.



Training course: Developing Strengths for Maximum Potential 7 March, 2014

No two people are identical and no two teams are identical. Consequently, the pathway to success must incorporate the unique qualities of those on the journey. Research confirms that maximum potential for individuals and teams is unlocked when attention is given to identifying and developing natural talents into productive strengths.

This workshop introduced participants to a Strengths-Based approach to personal and team development. The trainer Dr. David (Dave) Zovak is a certified performance coach and specializes in strength-based leadership and organizational consulting.



PwC Tax Seminar: 2013 Annual Corporate Income Tax Filing Key Points Update 20 March, 2014

As the tax filing deadline (i.e. May 31, 2014) of the Corporate Income Tax ("CIT") Annual Filing for Year 2013 is approaching, various state tax bureaus at district level in Tianjin have issued notices for CIT Annual Filing arrangement and tax treatment on some common items. Tax professionals from PwC shared their knowledge and thought on the 2013 CIT Annual Filing and answer the specific questions member companies met.



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Japanese Restaurant

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ROAST PORK HOT SOY SAUCE RAMEN 68元



4F TEL: 022-6554-1036
11:30-14:30 (LO: 13:30)
17:30-22:00 (LO: 21:00)

ISETAN

SEVENDAYS Strawberry Fair



Strawberry Parfait 草莓芭菲 34元

Strawberry Yogurt 草莓酸奶 30元

SEVENDAYS Spring Bread feast



Homemade French toast 自家制法式吐司面包 48元



Special seafood gratin bread and cheese (With soup, salad) 特制芝士海鲜焗面包(汤,沙拉) 48元

B1F TEL: 022-6554-1039
11:00-21:00 (LO: 20:00)

ADD TEDA MSD No.62 2nd Avenue TEDA Tianjin
Tel:6527-1111 Hrs:11:00-21:00(Restaurant 11:30-22:00)

Past Events

Special Event - Airbus Tianjin Factory Tour
Thursday, March 6, 2014

On March 6, the German Chamber of Commerce invited its members to a special VIP tour through the Airbus assembly facility. Mr. Andreas Ockel, General Manager of Airbus (Tianjin) Final Assembly Co., Ltd. gave an in-depth presentation about the Airbus facility and its operations before hosting a tour through the facility, during which he explained the various stages of the assembly of an Airbus jetliner. Airbus A320's final assembly line began operation in 2008 as a joint venture between Airbus and a Chinese consortium of Tianjin Free Trade Zone (TJFTZ) and China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC) and, by mid-2013, had already delivered more than 125 aircraft.



Seminar – How to Apply for Visa to Germany: Information by the German Embassy and the German Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Given today's strong Sino-German business ties, it's crucial for international HR executives to know how to obtain a German visa for their own employees. Therefore, the German Embassy and the German Chamber of Commerce provided guidance on how and where to apply for a business visa to Germany.



Ingo Ganns, Visa Officer at the German Embassy, gave a comprehensive overview of the various visa types. He also informed the audience about important regulations and guidelines companies have to adhere to in order to obtain a business visa for their employees, and the common mistakes that should be avoided in the visa process. The second speaker Ms. Li Nan, Visa Service Manager from the German Industry & Commerce Greater China, explained the advantages of utilizing the German Chamber of Commerce's visa services and how the Chamber can ease the application process for German companies.



More upcoming Events

- April 11, 2014: Breakfast Seminar: Risk Management and Business Insurance, The Ritz-Carlton Tianjin
- April 25, 2014: Deutscher Filmabend, Paulaner Tianjin
- April 30, 2014: Kammerstammtisch Tianjin, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus Tianjin

Seeds, seeds, please grow up quickly!

March the 12th was the annual Tree Planting Day. To commemorate the event the children and teachers from Hopeland International Kindergarten participated in an outdoor event called "Seeds, seeds, please grow up quickly". During the activity, the children moved soil into egg shells or pots with a little spade and planted flower seeds. After watering all that was left to do is wait for them to grow. All the children were very happy going about their work and experienced the joy of gardening. At the same time, it also let the children participate in an environmental action which helps enrich their daily life and that of the world as a whole. It is important thing that children learn to love life and nature. The teachers at Hopeland International Kindergarten believe that, through these kinds of activity, the children will develop a lifelong interest in plants and flowers. The hope is that every corner of the kindergarten will remain forever green.

种子，种子，快快发芽！

3月12日是一年一度的植树节，我们幼稚园里的小朋友在老师的带领下开展了“种子，种子，快快发芽！”的活动。孩子们用小铲将土壤装进蛋壳或花盆中，然后小心翼翼的把种子、小花苗的根基放入，最后为种子、小花苗浇水！看到自己的劳动成果，孩子们开心极了。本次活动不仅让孩子们体验到了播种的乐趣；同时还让孩子们主动参与到了保护环境、美化生活的行动中来；更重要的是还在孩子心中种下了热爱生活、热爱大自然的幼苗。相信孩子们通过这次活动都能从我做起，从身边的小事做起，做一名尽职的小花农，用心呵护植物角的花花草草，让绿色永驻我们荷兰国际幼稚园的每个角落。

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感恩教育

感恩是人类社会的传统美德，学生群体在家庭学校社会的支持下一步步的提高自己的精神文化水平，更加要感恩社会，感恩我们的父母。

随着社会经济的不断发展，鉴于经济与文化之间的互联关系，社会文明也在不断的进步，作为社会文明象征的道德水平也在不断的增强。如今的中国提倡和谐社会，社会的感恩意识总的趋势是不断提高的。

在我任职的大学里面，大多数学生是独生子女，家里是以学生为中心，家长的一切期望只是学生的学习，除了学习，在家里可以拥有权力没有义务，这是从小积累起来的。可以看出家庭的中心教育的思想对今后学生在处理人跟事方面的不足，即家庭教育忽视了道德与感恩教育，使得大学生的感恩意识淡薄。

非常希望家长们明白，学生的成长学生的优秀并不仅仅是一些分数来说明的，学生的道德教育的培养也是重要的。有些家长辛辛苦苦赚来的钱大把大把投资在子女教育上，而且学生本来不领情，甚至当作理所应当，这让我感觉非常费解。中国家长真的对孩子有一种无私的奉献精神。而在美国，我的一些同学、朋友甚至在毕业10年之后，还在继续偿还大学助学贷款，家长根本不会插手。

最后，我真心希望中国的家长在关爱子女的同时交给他们以一种感恩的态度去对待家人，对待他人，对待社会。同时，也需要家长自己做好榜样，以身作则。

An Attitude of Gratitude

by Ashton Weis

Getting accepted into college in China is highly competitive. Applicants are accepted to universities based on test scores and high school grades. Children begin taking national exams when they are six years old and take them regularly throughout their educational careers; because of these high standards Chinese parents take an active role in their children's education at an early age. Many hire tutors to ensure that their children have the best possible chances of succeeding.

Many students study extremely hard starting with elementary school and all the way through high school, because that determines their college placement. The acceptance is based almost strictly on test scores. This is the only feasible way for China to conduct their education placements because of the vast population.

Parents expect their children to pursue their studies without distractions. This is an especially important aspect concerning students having jobs. There is a lot of pressure on high school students to excel at the national exams and get placed well at university. College is an important factor in China, just like in many other countries.

Chinese parents place a lot of value on the education system and don't wish for their children to worry about anything else. Because of the one-child policy, many children are only children, and so they have all

of the resources of their parents to themselves.

Because duty is such an important aspect of Chinese culture, duty plays a large role in education. It is the parents' duty to pay



College Student

for any education costs, and in turn it is the students' duty to do well. Not only is it their duty, but also most parents feel pride in being able to afford their children's education. They are happy to pay for all of the expenses in hopes of giving their children a better future.

The cost of university in China pales in comparison to that of the States. It costs an average of \$4,500 a year (as of 2010).

In return for paying for university and all of the living costs (many parents in China provide their children with an allowance every month), these students are expected to care for their parents once they become retirees.

Chinese students feel gratitude for their education, but they also feel as though it's their duty to go to school and then do well. Because parents bankroll the operation, many

Parents and students take great pride in their high scores, because that means better financial stability in the future for everyone.



Reading in library

students are under their parents' guidance much longer than students in the States.

When one student was asked her feeling toward her parents paying for her schooling, she replied: "Normal, because it's really normal for Chinese parents to pay for college."

Another admitted that when she began her college experience, she expected her parents to pay, but now she wishes she had more individual say over her studies. Because they pay for the university, they have a measure of control over her decisions.

Yet still another said that her parents had little influence over her education, and her mother was upset when she chose a university far away from home.

There was an array of responses when my students were asked these questions about how much control parents had over their children's decisions, but they all felt proud of their educations.

There is a much larger give-and-take between the students and the parents when it comes to Chinese families, as opposed to American families. They depend on one another to financially support them throughout their lives.

One of my fellow teachers explained that although duty is an important factor, pride and honor also play a part. Both the students and their parents are proud, honored, and grateful to be able to give each other material comforts at different points in their lives.

There was also a feeling of gratitude that

the parents push the students to both attend and excel in school. The process and success of college education is an important financial maker for the whole family, so the whole family is much more involved with every aspect of the learning.

Parents and students take great pride in their high scores, because that means better financial stability in the future for everyone. There is a much higher burden on the students to be able to afford their parents as they retire. Many of these attitudes are different in the United States.

The nuances of gratitude in China and the United States are interesting when viewed side-by-side. Although the emotions of the two groups of students are both grateful, specific elements are different. Gratitude for paying for the university in China is laced with duty and honor. In the US, it's laced with ideas of independence and self-determination. This shows which values are more important in each culture.

In the United States, college expenses are a burden to many families. Most middle class Americans cannot afford the education outright, unlike China. And those Chinese families that cannot pay for it directly get help from either the government or the universities. This is different from the United States' federal and private loan programs.

Many students from America graduate with ten years worth of student loans. Both the students and their parents usually try to

share the expenses. Those enrolled at an American institute graduate with an average of \$29,400 (in 2012) due in loans.

Many Americans spend their college careers with an exuberant amount of part-time jobs and work to support themselves through college. Many have been working since high school.

Students also apply to many scholarships based on both need and

The necessity of the students helping pay for their own education increases the responsibility of the student.

academic performance.

Many parents of these students try to aid them in their education in any way that they can. And the students are grateful for any help that they receive for their education, but many American parents cannot afford the hefty tuition and living costs that accompany higher education.

And American parents try to teach their children the values of independence and urge them to find their own ways to pay for their education.

Because of this, there is an emphasis on being able to support oneself through college. At one point in university, I was working four jobs to help pay the high costs. Although this wasn't fun, my parents encouraged the outside employment. My parents placed importance on my independence and my ability to help finance my schooling than Chinese parents do.

The necessity of the students helping pay for their own education increases the responsibility of the student. It is their personal education, and they take great personal ownership over their studies. Their parents do not take any ownership of their education, the way that is normal in China.

In these glaring differences, it is easy to see that Chinese culture places more value on duty, honor and good education to receive good future jobs. And American culture places more value on independence and problem solving in the present.

成语要慎用

中国的成语通常由四个字组成，其表达的意思往往超过字面含义。很多成语都来自典故、神话或真实故事。能够在对话中使用成语代表了一个人的文化修养。如果一个外国人能熟练地使用成语，那说明他对中国的文化和历史非常了解。

在西方国家，英语成语的使用已经没有那么普遍，但时不时使用一下可以达到一针见血的效果。汉语里大约有20,000个成语，有些比较容易理解，比如“一路顺风”、“一路平安”。还有一些成语从字面上看不出意思，你必须了解其中的典故。比如“马马虎虎”这个成语，说的是宋代京城有一位画家，画什么都随心所欲。一次他刚画了一个虎头，一位朋友正好来拜访，提出想要他画马，就在虎头下画了马身子，朋友问他：你这画的是什么？答曰：“马马虎虎。”他的意思是说，这两者都差不多。而他的大儿子看到后问：“这画的是什么？”他回答说是马。等到二儿子问他时，他说是虎。

画家这么“马虎”地一解释，两个儿子也就分不清马和虎了。一天，大儿子外出打猎，竟把人家的马当虎给射死了，画家不得不给马主赔钱。而他的小儿子外出碰上老虎，却以为是马，就去骑，结果被老虎活活咬死了。

另外一个成语“塞翁失马”战国时期有一位老人，名叫塞翁。他养了许多马，一天马群中忽然有一匹走失。邻居们听到这事，都来安慰他不必太着急，但塞翁却说：“丢了一匹马损失不大，没准还会带来福气。”过了没几天，丢马不仅自动回家，还带回一匹骏马。塞翁却忧虑地说：“白白得了一匹好马，不一定是什么福气，也许惹出什么麻烦来。”塞翁有个独生子，非常喜欢骑马。他非常喜欢带回来的这匹马，每天都骑马出游，心中洋洋得意。一天，他高兴得有些过火，从马背上跌下来，摔断了腿。塞翁说：“没什么，腿摔断了却保住性命，或许是福气呢。”邻居们觉得他又在胡言乱语。他们想不出，摔断腿会带来什么福气。不久，匈奴兵大举入侵，青年人应征入伍，塞翁的儿子因为摔断了腿，不能去当兵。入伍的青年都战死了，唯有塞翁的儿子保全了性命。

在使用成语的时候你必须十分小心，因为成语只有四个字，这中间有些字义是省略了的，外国人很难把握。中国人使用英语成语也不是件容易的事。有一次在一个饭局上，一个中国官员的翻译想要称赞一位加拿大首脑的酒量很好，中文应该是“海量”，但这个翻译却用了“你喝酒像鱼一样”这个成语。其实是个贬义的成语，是用来形容酒鬼的。

使用成语是把双刃剑，有些成语很复杂，需要理解背后的历史；还有一些比较简单有趣，说出来会让你的朋友刮目相看。

Be Smart —Use Idioms 成语

By David Wong

Chinese Idioms or Cheng Yu 成语 are Chinese phrases that are used to represent a situation. These idioms are usually four characters although there are some phrases with odd pairings or two sets of three characters. They are always balanced and have more meaning than just defining the four individual characters.

They are usually derived from ancient stories, myth or real. It is a measure of a person's intellect, if he or she can use idioms in their conversations. This is especially true if used by expats because it shows that the speaker has knowledge of Chinese culture and history beyond just being able to learn and speak Mandarin.



Ma Ma Hu Hu

English idioms are not as commonly used in the West but they are frequent and sometimes a few words in the form of a saying will get the point across faster and with more emphasis.

It is estimated that there are over 20,000 idioms in the Chinese language. Some are quite simple and can be used easily to raise the level of your conversational skills with your Chinese friends. It is also a good way to learn Chinese and have your friends add to your vocabulary of idioms.

English idioms are not as commonly used in the West but they are frequent and sometimes a few words in the form of a saying will get the point across faster and with more emphasis.

Some simple, common ones are: Yi Lu Shun Feng 一路顺风, Literal meaning: Trip with Prevailing Winds or Yi Lu Ping An 一路平安, the literal meaning: Peaceful Trip.

These two idioms are very appropriate to be used when your friends are leaving on a long trip. The equivalent in English is "Bon Voyage", origin is French and means: "Good Journey", another similar idiom is "God's Speed" This is a Christian derivative, giving a blessing or a prayer for a safe Trip.

A very common Chinese idiom is Ma Ma Hu Hu 马马虎虎, which literally means: Horse Horse Tiger Tiger.

This is a negative idiom and originates from a fable of an artist that was drawing a tiger and then someone interrupted him asked him to draw a horse. Instead of drawing two paintings, he just added the body of the horse to the painting of the tiger. Later his youngest son came by and asked what was the painting; he said it was a horse. When his eldest son asked, he said it was a tiger. The youngest son then went into the forest and saw a tiger and thinking it was a horse, tried to ride it and was eaten alive. The second son saw a priceless stallion and thinking it was a tiger, drew his bow and arrow and killed the horse.

From that day on, the people in the

county called the father Mr. MaHu (马虎 Horse Tiger) that represents carelessness or being so-so. You can use this phrase to describe a person or an object, such as after tasting a dish and if you are asked, "How was it?" your negative reply is "So-So" Ma Ma Hu Hu 马马虎虎.

"A blessing in disguise." or "Every dark cloud has a silver lining." Has a Chinese equivalent: "Sai Weng Shi Ma 塞翁失马" The literal meaning is: "The old man at the border loses his horse".

This idiom is a fable of an old man that lived in a border state. One day his horse ran off to the neighboring state and his servant told him the bad news. But the owner was not sad and said "Maybe it is not a bad thing". Sure enough in a few days, his horse came back and brought with him several new horses.

Then the owner's son fell during riding one of these horses and crippled his arm. The owner's servant expressed his sympathy, but the owner repeated, maybe this is not a bad thing. Then the two neighbor states went to war and all young men were conscripted and most died in battle. However, since the owner's son was crippled, he was spared.

A Chinese idiom to describe a cheap or stingy person (a Cheapskate) is "Yi Mao Bu Ba

一毛不拔", literal meaning: one hair will not be removed.

This idiom is used for describing a selfish person or situation and comes from an ancient story. In the Warring States period (403BC), there were all sorts of philosophies prevalent at the time. The thinker Mozi, advocated for the love of mankind towards each other and for helping. Another thinker called Yang Zhu, said all actions came from self-interest.

One day, Mozi's student Qin Hua Li came up to Yang Zhu and asked: "If you could help the whole world by only pulling out one of your hairs, would you be willing to do it?" Yang Zhu answered: "There is no such problem that could be solved by pulling out a hair. "But if it could?", insisted Qin.

However, Yang Zhu still didn't show himself ready to do so.

These next idioms are modern with no reference to ancient fables. Jin Shang Tian Hua 锦上添花 means embroidery adding flowers. The English equivalent is "The Icing on the Cake".

The meaning is to make perfection more perfect or being superfluous. An example would be if you saw a beautiful girl planning to wear a gorgeous dress, which would be considered the icing on the cake, since she was

already so beautiful.

Another current idiom is Xin Xiang Shi Cheng 心想事成 meaning: The heart desires, the thing will happen. "Whatever the heart desires will happen" is the English equivalent; this idiom can be used when you want to encourage someone to follow through and have dedication to a purpose or a goal.

One has to be careful when using idioms because in order to keep within the four character statute, some words are left out and considered understood and for us foreigners, where Chinese is our second language, it is difficult to catch the meaning or remember the correct phrase.

The same holds true for English idioms. I recall an interpreter translating a Chinese official who was complimenting a high level Canadian premier with his ability to consume Mao-tai, the strong Chinese white liquor. The Chinese phrase was "You have the capacity of the ocean." but the translation was "You drink like a fish." Which is negative and derogatory meaning a person is an alcoholic.

So good luck with your idioms, just remember that some are very complex and will require understanding of the history, while others are simple and fun; to impress your friends.



Chinese idioms need careful study.



In the sun the pink petals with shining dew are stunning and their yellow stamens dance merrily in the breeze.



津城春色桃花早

在天津，每到3月底，便是桃花堤最耀眼的时段，因为只有这里，才能告诉人们春天已经来了，为此，踏青赏花的市民络绎不绝。每每这个时候，粉白色的桃花在枝头怒放着，像雪又雾凇，更像花的瀑布沿着树枝漫漫而下，沿着运河远远望去是一片花的海洋，一直伸向远方，楼台亭榭点缀其中，好像是天宫中的琼楼玉宇和海角天涯上的神仙之舍，真有些欲仙不能的感觉。

桃花堤，位于北运河丁字沽沿岸。据记载，清朝初期，北运河堤丁字沽一带，有桃柳数千株。每逢春日，桃花盛开，红雨满堤，绿柳如茵，文人学士纷纷在此赋诗，如“欲和春浅深，但看花开来”、“丁字沽边柳万条，青青一带锁红桥”便是其中的佳句。

清代康熙皇帝也曾为桃花堤题词：“再见桃苍，津门红映依然好；回銮才到，疑是春两报。锦缆仙舟，星夜盼晨晓；情飘飘，艳阳时衰，不是垂阳老。”传说，当年乾隆皇帝下江南，路经此处，见到岸坡桃林茂盛，垂柳依依，弃船登岸观花余兴未消，欣然命其名为“桃柳堤”。桃柳堤旁边有一桃诗园，佳木繁荫，清流映带。只是随着时间的流逝，损坏严重。直到1985年，桃柳堤恢复重建，又展新姿，取名桃花园。

桃花园是一座以观赏桃柳为主的公园。占地1.2公顷。桃花园的建筑形式为古典民族风格，有牌楼、亭、廊、阁、洞、山石、池榭等小品造景，起伏连绵，步移景异。桃花园共有乔灌木5300多株，靠北运河一侧堤坡以垂柳为主，堤内和园内侧以桃类植物为主，有山桃、碧桃、寿星桃等800余株。蜿蜒的桃堤，天桃成行，绿柳相伴，落英缤纷，形成了一条绚丽的五色长廊。



Restored in 1985 on the banks of the Bei Yun River in Ding Zi Gu, the Tao Hua Di Garden covers 1.2 hectares.



Early spring peach blossom in town

by Zhangjian
Photo by Zhangjian

The end of March in Tianjin is the peak time for peach blossom at Tao Hua Di and it is also a sign for locals that spring is approaching. Soon the barren grayness that is the winter in northern China will be replaced with green and the warmth of spring and summer. At this time of year, the best thing to do in Tianjin is to get outdoors. That explains the endless streams of tourists visiting the major parks downtown which are now easier to access and vividly demonstrate the arrival of spring.

Restored in 1985 on the banks of the Bei Yun River in Ding Zi Gu, the Tao Hua Di Garden covers 1.2 hectares. Every April, it becomes a religious place where single young people pray for love and a paradise for the young couples seeking a quiet and beautiful place to spend some romantic quality time together.

As long as the weather is not too bad the peach trees will be in full bloom. From a distance the peach tree will look like a fluffy pink ball. As you get closer you'll find the branches competing against each other in a contest to show off their beautiful flowers. The new peach buds are so eager to blossom that they leave little room for the leaves to come out. The branches find it hard to get any sun due to all the flowers covering them.

In the sun the pink petals with shining dew are stunning and their yellow stamens dance merrily in the breeze. A few bold leaves stand out amongst the blossoms as if trying to distract people's attention away from the flowers. However, they are unsuccessful. All they do is make the blossoms look even more beautiful against the green leaves.





A smoggy day in Tianjin. Photo by Wang Xinpeng

Fresh Air Is Not Free!

By Paula Taylor

清洁空气来之不易

很多中国人都把我的家乡伦敦称作“雾都”。他们一定是受了《雾都孤儿》这部小说的影响，而且他们还没分清什么是气象学的雾和污染物形成的雾。

我现在就在伦敦，每天享受着湛蓝的天空。我把这里天空的照片发给我的中国朋友，结果她说：“你是不是PS过了？”好吧，我不怪她，也许她从没看过这样的蓝天。

一个北京的朋友说，北京当天的PM2.5已经爆表到500了，而伦敦只有25。英国其他地区的人都认为伦敦很脏，污染严重。作为首都城市，这都是在所难免的。如果PM2.5达到25就被认为很高了，那天津的人可怎么活？

所有人都已经意识到这样的状况不能再继续下去了，而中国政府也已经宣布要对污染宣战并实行了具体的治理措施。天津政府也跟随北京治理雾霾的脚步，从交通入手进行整治。去年12月，天津政府首次发布了雾霾三级预警，并实行了紧急预案。环保部门在预警中宣布要临时实行机动车尾号限行措施。但是由于沟通问题，交管部门并没有接到相关通知，限行也没有发生。今年2月，环保部门又一次宣布实行紧急预案。这次两个部门明显已经吸取了上一次“乌龙事件”的教训，联合在电视、广播和网络发布了相关信息。但尽管如此，这样的通知只是在限号前一天晚上才发出，很多司机还是抱怨没有接到通知，导致第二天违反限行规定而受到处罚。当然，这只是刚刚开始，还有很多经验需要总结，相信以后政府部门会做得更加完善。

每个人都有关于如何治理污染的想法，但真的做起来没有那么简单。中国政府也在向英国学习经验。当年伦敦的主要污染来自烧煤的重工业，而现在煤炭已经被严令禁止了。而中国现在仍然大量依靠煤炭，不仅仅是重工业，冬季取暖也是如此。所以，政府要付出的不是钱那么简单，而是从技术上改变这一现状。

既然中国政府下定决心要打赢这一仗，那么普通大众应该如何支持呢？当然，中国可以立法解决环境问题。但是，如果执行不够严谨和严格，那么最终那些被关掉的工厂会死灰复燃。同时，人们是否愿意执行这些法律法规？汽车限号会对人们出行造成不便，取缔路边烧烤人们会失去很多乐趣，燃放鞭炮又破坏了古老的习俗。

由于雾霾的影响，人们的日常活动已经受到了影响。他们必须减少户外活动的的时间，学校取消体育课，医院里呼吸系统疾病的病人激增。

我们知道经济的发展进步一定是有代价的。但是我们到底能承受多高的代价？人们是否意识到解决环境问题是每个人的责任？除了关心政府做了什么，我们也要问问自己：“我为环境做了什么？”

For those of you that come from London, no doubt many Tianjiners have said to you “You are from the foggy city”. There are two reasons for this, they have heard it from Charles Dickens, or they are confusing weather fog with pollution fog.

Now that I am back in London I am constantly in awe of the blazing blue skies. I cannot stop taking pictures of them, but when I emailed them to Mary, she said “These are fake, have you photo shopped them or did you get them from the newspaper?” My friends there have never seen such deep blue skies and so it is hard for them to believe they exist.

I have a friend here from Beijing and she told me “In Beijing today the pollution count is 500 and here in London it is 25”. People from other parts of England refer to

London as “The Smoke”, they find it dirty, polluted and noisy. Being a capital city this is unavoidable, but if they consider a pollution count of 25 too high, what would they make of Tianjin? What my Beijinger friend meant was that the level of PM 2.5 particles - that is particles that are small enough to enter the bloodstream actually reached 505 micrograms per cubic metre. The maximum level considered to be safe is 25.

The situation cannot be allowed to continue and it may comfort you to know that the Chinese Government has announced that it has declared war on pollution, and to this end there are several measures in place. Hence the Tianjin local Government is following Beijing's lead in putting forth effort to combat pollution, at least from a traffic point of view. In Beijing cars are allowed on the roads strictly according to registration numbers, so some days some people are not allowed to drive. I can tell you that as far as catching unauthorised vehicles illegally using the roads is concerned, this policy is working, as just recently there was a story in the news about two men from Tianjin who were caught in Beijing trapping cats which they intended to sell as meat in Tianjin. The police caught them because of their registration plate, they were not authorised to drive in Beijing. They were arrested because of this, not because they were catching cats.

So back in February this announcement was released by the local government in Tianjin “We now release a level III (yellow) heavy pollution weather warning, please would all district and county governments, and each responsible unit start the “heavy pollution in Tianjin weather contingency plan”. Therefore it was decided to carry out the car restriction policy. However, it was easier said than done and much confusion resulted. This is what happened: It was actually decided by the Environment Agency that these restrictions had to be enacted, but unfortunately there was some kind of lack of communication between them and the Traffic Authorities, who said that they knew nothing about it. Even more unfortunately, although finally everything was set for the restrictions to take effect, it was only announced the night before on TV, radio and Weibo so many drivers complained that

they didn't even know about it. As it was a first attempt teething problems have to be allowed for. Lessons have been learned and it is to be hoped that going forward this process will be smoothly executed, relatively speaking. Dealing with the traffic pollution is a start, but the main causes of pollution come from other areas. Steps have also been taken to close down offending factories and companies.

Even bigger news is that the war against pollution has also gone high-tech in a bid to combat the deadly particles. The latest offensive from the Government is that it has successfully tested unmanned drones which fly over the city and spray chemicals to disperse the pollution clouds. The drones can carry around 700kg of smog clearing

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chemicals, which react with the pollution and freezes the particles, which then fall to the ground. Apparently this process has been going on for years, but previously aeroplanes were used, which were a lot more expensive and obviously did not do a good enough job. Apart from cutting costs, there is also the fact that the drones can still fly through thick smog whereas planes are grounded.

I am sure we all have our own ideas as to how to deal with the problem, but really it is not that simple. The Chinese government are keen to study how London conquered the pollution many years ago. The pollution in London was as a result of using coal to fuel heavy industry. It is largely forbidden to use coal in the cities now, and if anyone wants to have a coal fire they will find themselves bound up in red tape and

procedures. Add to the fact that we no longer have factories in England and voila no pollution. I had to disillusion my friends as they thought we all sat around our coal fires making toast. However China heavily relies on coal, not just for heavy industry, but also for the central heating. So the price to be paid for development comes not in monetary terms, but in environmental terms.

As the Government are determined to win the war on pollution, what responsibility do Chinese people have to support the initiatives, because of course China can pass laws but if unscrupulous people will not stick to them, what then? Factories that have been closed down start up again within a day or two. When the car driving restrictions were enacted, people complained of the inconvenience. Agreeing that the laws have to be passed and personally obeying them are two different things. One newspaper report said outdoor barbeques should be banned. Honestly speaking they surely do not contribute much to the pollution, but if they were banned, how would Tianjiners react? A bigger issue is the fireworks, already banned for general use in Beijing, if they were similarly banned in Tianjin, would people agree? Some of the vehicles that are driven in Tianjin would be banned in our countries because of the thick black smoke that emits from them.

Tianjiners are already having their activities curtailed because of the problems of the smog. People have had to cut down the time they spend exercising in the park, schools have had to cancel outdoor activities, the hospitals report a huge increase in patients suffering from lung problems, the list goes on. The biggest killer of men and women in Tianjin is lung cancer and since not many Chinese women smoke, one wonders what other factors could be causing it.

Of course we all know that economic development and progress come at a price. Just how high a price people will be willing to pay before everyone acknowledges that they personally have a responsibility to help solve the problem remains to be seen. It is not enough for people to wonder what the Government is doing about it, they must also ask themselves “What am I doing about it?”

走路玩手机一点都不酷

你能边走边玩手机聊天么？你的答案很可能是肯定的，但当它同时涉及到手机使用与穿越马路这样的多重任务时，你也许就要三思而后“答”了。

如今，随着智能手机的普及应用，边走边看手机的人越来越多，而这一习惯可能会致使人体失去平衡，从而容易摔倒或发生事故。由于走路发短信而引发的交通事故、被铁轨绊倒、误入喷泉、摔下堤岸等事故也时常见诸报端。

最近，澳大利亚布里斯班的昆士兰大学研究人员招募26名年轻男女为志愿者，让他们走3段9.14米的直线路径，一段不拿手机，一段边走边看短信，另一段边走边发短信，同时观察志愿者走路时的身体姿势。结果发现，志愿者使用手机时步法发生明显改变，尤其是边走边发短信时，步速变慢，偏离直线路径，而且头部动起来。为了让视线停留在屏幕上，志愿者走路时姿势异于平常。研究人员说：“为了让眼球盯住手机，他们‘锁住’胳膊、躯干和头部，以便让手机一直在视线范围内，因此减少了身体各部分的动作。先前研究告诉我们，身体动得少，摔倒的可能性更大。”同时，注意力集中于编写信息和头部动起来也可能影响身体平衡。

在南京路中学门口执勤的交通协管员说：“每天上下班的高峰时段我都会发现，一边走路一边玩手机或听音乐的人不计其数，这种情况对自身的安全存在极大隐患。一边走路一边看手机，不仅分散了注意力，视觉受阻，还使人反应能力降低，影响对道路情况的判断，无法对迎面而来的车辆作出及时反应。其次，发生危险的人为因素也很多，而发生危险的地段则主要有十字路口、无井盖的下水道等等。正如司机需要集中精力安全驾驶一样，行人也应注意安全行走。”

Is it smart to walk/drive with a smartphone?

by David Wong



Riding/texting

It has a serious impact on the safety of people who type or read text while walking.

authorities have highlighted the danger in Singapore, where the Straits Times newspaper recently declared cellphone-distracted road crossing 'bad habit No. 2' contributing to the rising number of road deaths. (No. 1 is cyclists not dismounting in heavy traffic.)

The use of smartphones for texting in China is getting out of hand. Pedestrians are walking down the streets while texting and even crossing intersections while sending messages. This is dangerous even in North American streets, where the pedestrians have the right away, but down right reckless in China, where pedestrian is at the bottom of the totem pole, as far as traffic rights.

The statistics show that over 50% of cell phone users now have smartphones and this percentage is growing each year. However if you look around you at a subway, bus or any public place, I think the percentage is higher, as everyone seems to have their heads bowed and their hands together, and they are not praying.

Using motion-capture technology similar to that used for films such as 'The Hobbit,' University of Queensland researchers concluded that texting while walking not only affects balance and the ability to walk in a straight line, but also can actually damage a texter's posture. I was checking emails while walking to work this morning, ' confessed study co-author Wolbert van den Hoorn. 'It has a serious impact on the safety of people who type or read text while walking.'

Anecdotes back him up. A tourist from Taiwan walked off a pier near Melbourne last month while checking Facebook--bringing an abrupt, and icy, end to a penguin-watching visit. The video-sharing website YouTube is a trove of people too wrapped up in their phones to notice obstacles--like the fountain one U.S. shopping-mall visitor walked straight into.

Authorities worldwide have taken note. Signs on Hong Kong's subway system advise passengers in three languages to keep their eyes off their phones. Police and transport



Seeing eye person

Walking while texting is dangerous but driving while texting is even crazier. The US Governors Highway Safety Council recently concluded a study that showed that up to 25% of accidents could be traced to the use of smartphones while driving, especially texting. It doesn't take much time, to see examples of Tianjin drivers talking on phones or trying to text while driving and sometimes smoking at the same time. There are numerous videos on line from public bus cams showing accidents caused by the driver texting and being distracted while driving.

It is actually against the law to use a phone while driving in China, but the problem is enforcement. Until the Chinese government can develop a way to charge the lawbreakers, this dangerous habit will continue. An example is the law against

Walking while texting is dangerous but driving while texting is even crazier.

running a red light, which had no affect until last year, when the video cameras started to charge the infractions with fines of 300rmb and 6 point deductions. (A driver license is suspended for a year once 12 demerit points are reached.) The intersections became safer almost overnight.

The same was true in many cities in Canada and United States. In 2011, many cities enacted a "Distracted Driving" law, mainly targeting cell phone users. The fine in my hometown is \$172 or 1000rmb. It has been two years and police officers are still issuing tickets, about 25000 tickets each year, in a city that is only one million.

Police authorities feel that it will take at least five years before drivers will change their habits, just like it took a long time for drivers to accept new seat belt laws when it was introduced.

How has the Smartphone changed our culture?

It's not all bad, the smartphone are become an important part of our social network. One of the most popular apps (Applications) is WeiXin 微信; literal meaning is "micro message". It was introduced in 2011 and is used extensively now throughout China. The English app is called WeChat. At last count, there are 500 million users in China and 100 million internationally.

Registering your friends and contacts is easy on WeiXin; all you need is their cell phone number. You can use text or voice and it's free. There is also a discover feature that allows you post photos or links of interesting topics.

Most users will post pictures of food; in China, it's all about eating. It's a great way to tell your friends what you are up to and introduce new restaurants. Some tips for taking food photos: keep it simple and if possible make sure the food is on a white background or white tablecloth, or you can place a white napkin below the plated item. Good lighting is key. Natural light that comes from behind the food is best, so try turning off indoor lights (at home) and the camera's flash, and place the plate in front of a window that provides indirect sunlight.

If it's after dark or natural light is unavailable, make sure only one type of light is on - not both a halogen lamp and a fluorescent overhead light, for instance - and that the artificial light comes from behind the food, if possible.

The most fail-safe angle for taking a food picture is from directly above, with only the food in the frame. That way, the picture taker

doesn't have to worry about a distracting background. When shooting from overhead, it's helpful to hold a piece of paper out of the frame but opposite your light source to bounce light back toward the food.

Those who want a little ambience in their photos should consider taking their smartphone camera even higher by standing on a chair. Another interesting shot is to take pictures of the raw ingredients, then the process of cooking and the final product.

Courtship has also changed in this age of communication. There many dating sites and once contact is made, keeping in touch has never been so easy. Sometimes words are not enough, or as the saying goes: "A picture is worth a 1000 words." That's when Emoji 绘文字 comes in handy. This was a pictogram program started in Japan in 1998 and by 2009, had entered the Google sector and used by smartphones.

A New Harris Interactive poll showed 20% of the respondents used their smartphone during sex. Over one third used their phones during a dinner date. I can't imagine the first, but you can certainly see evidence of people ignoring guests during dinner, as everyone is busy texting or checking the latest postings.

In fact there is a new description called "Nomophobia" fear of losing sight or access to your phone. How many times have you returned home from work or visa versa, just to be sure you had your crutch. Do you use your phone while going to the bathroom? This dependency can be too much.

It is sad that we are forgetting the art of conversation; it would be healthy if we would really talk to each other more. Why not try to have a "technology free hour" next time you and your significant other are together? No phones, TV or computers. Give it a try - it's free.



Danger

ZhangJiaKou 张家口—2022?

by David Wong

ZhangJiaKou张家口, is a prefecture-city in northwestern Hebei province, bordering Beijing to the southeast, Inner Mongolia to the north and west and Shanxi to the southwest. Its administrative area has a population of 4.35 million, and covers 36,947 square kilometers (14,265 sq mi). Due to its position on several important transport arteries, it is a critical transport node for travel. It is a the site for the joint bid, with the city of Beijing submitted by China last year for the 2022 Winter Olympics.

A prefectural level city 地级市; diji shi; literally "Regional level city", prefectural city or prefectural level municipality is an administrative division of China, ranking below a province and

Zhangjiakou was historically nicknamed, "Beijing's Northern Door"



Skiing

2022冬季奥运会申办城市： 张家口

张家口地处京、冀、晋、蒙四省市交界处，市区距首都北京仅180公里，距天津港340公里。我们此次出发前往的“密苑云顶乐园”位于河北省张家口市崇礼县境内，地处太行山和燕山交会的大马群山之中；是由马来西亚云顶集团与卓越集团投资兴建而成。这里年平均气温只有3.3℃，积雪时间长达150天。因此，得天独厚的地理优势为冰雪娱乐项目创造了绝佳条件，87条总长度约为70公里的滑雪道，总滑雪面积达262公顷，滑雪游客承载力将近2万人。这里可算得上是中国最大的赏雪、玩雪的旅游圣地，在一片银装素裹的雪世界之中，滑雪赏冰、休闲娱乐。

根据市场部负责人杨小姐介绍，每年的12月份到转年的2月份为旅游旺季。因此，准备出行的话，请一定记得提前预定。而且每逢雪季，“云顶滑雪中心”会同时开放初、中、高级雪道35条，并配备了多台意大利天冰（TECHNOALPIN）造雪机和意大利普罗诺斯压雪车。利用完善的造雪系统，充分保障了滑雪场的运营环境。为满足单板滑雪者的需要，雪场还设有雪上单板娱乐区，以满足不同级别的滑雪爱好者的不同需求。除此之外，封闭和半封闭缆车服务，还可以让游客在温暖和舒适的环境下欣赏大自然的风光和滑雪者的英姿。

更重要的是，目前在国际奥委会的正式申办报告截止日前，共有5个国家提出了申办或者联合申办的申请，其中除了挪威的奥斯陆、哈萨克斯坦的阿拉木图、乌克兰的利沃夫和波兰的克拉科夫—亚斯那联合申办之外，北京—张家口也位列其中。据了解，按照国际奥委会目前的安排，国际奥委会执委会将于明年7月31日产生最后的主办城市。因此，我真心的祝福张家口好运，中国好运！

above a county in China's administrative structure. Prefectural level cities form the second level of the administrative structure.

A prefectural level city is often not a "city" in the usual sense of the term (i.e. a large continuous urban settlement), but instead an administrative unit comprising, typically, a main central urban area (a city in the usual sense, usually with the same name as the prefectural level city), and its much larger surrounding rural area containing many smaller cities, towns and villages.

Zhangjiakou was historically nicknamed, "Beijing's Northern Door", because whoever controlled Zhangjiakou was in a good position to either attack (in the case of the Soviets) or defend (in the case of the Chinese) Beijing.

The area that has been designated for the proposed outdoor events is located in ChongLi County within ZhangJiaKuo. The distance from Beijing has been listed as 250 kilometers from Beijing or less. However this is probably measured from the north of Beijing, from the ChangPing area. The actual distance from Tianjin would be about 400 kilometers, or about a 5-hour drive. This will be shortened a great deal once the high-speed rail is completed from Beijing to ChongLi County. It will take 40 minutes.

The drive was quite interesting, it is not too often that you can drive for great distances in China and encounter empty spaces. This is the

case when you drive through Hebei after the G6 highway for the last hour to ChongLi. I have never seen so much empty land without agriculture or land development.

No wonder the Chinese government is hoping to encourage development and the Olympic bid will surely result in increased investment in this area. It can be seen already, as there are 4 ski resorts in the county and attracting many tourists. WanLong, DouLeMeiDi and Great Wall and Genting Secret Garden. I visited one of the resorts called Genting Secret Garden, which has over 30 ski runs, and a five star hotel called the Genting Grand.

Genting Group is a Malaysian conglomerate with international operations in the tourism industry including hotels, casinos and resorts. Genting owns the world's third largest cruise company, Star Cruises. When I asked why was the ChongLi property named Secret Garden, I was told that when the Genting director visited the area before developing the resort, he said that after driving through the winding roads leading to the site, it was like discovering a secret location.

I can attest to this, as I could not imagine that there would be a five star resort located in such a remote and barren area. The Genting hotel is truly a five star resort with over 280 rooms and suites and a separate 40-room lodge. It was only opened last year so still adding venues to the property. I visited on a weekday and although it was March, the skiing area was still open, since they make their own snow. The ski season is from November to March and it is an all-inclusive facility. The big advantage is the ski slope is just beside the hotel, which makes it very convenient.

You can rent equipment and clothing and



Hotel lobby

ski lessons can be arranged for children, beginners and snowboards. They even have skating and sled activities for those who are less adventuresome. There are also several indoor activities such as archery, snooker, foosball, a gym and swimming pool.

My hometown is Calgary, Alberta, Canada home of the 1988 Winter Olympics and site of several world-class ski areas such as Lake Louise, Banff and Sunshine. The skiing in ChongLi is not at this level yet but with preparation for the 2022 Olympics, I am sure that it will improve. For the present, this is probably one of the best available in China.

The hotel presently has three food venues featuring Beijing, Sichuan and Western Food, all were excellent and when you consider that everything has to be transported in, I thought the quality was very good. I can't say that I would



Cable car

have won ton noodles or dumplings at a ski lodge in Mount Norquay, Banff, beside the North American run but it was good here.

That is a big difference between China and back home. When we used to go skiing, we would pack a huge lunch and eat at the picnic areas and enjoy the outdoors. This would not be possible in China due to the huge crowds and most Chinese prefer hot food and not used to cold food such as sandwiches or cold cuts.

Ms. Carol Yang, from the hotel's sales and marketing department, explained that the peak season is December to February for skiing and weekends are always full, so try to reserve a few weeks in advance. For the summer season, all the venues will be open and they will have trail riding and outdoors activities. High season would be July and August. For more details, you can check out their website: www.gentingsecretgarden.com

The total investment for the Genting project is over six billion renminbi and includes condominiums, townhouses and a golf course. They plan to make this a year round venue and attract people from Beijing and Tianjin area. No doubt the completion of the high-speed rail from Beijing to ChongLi will help a great deal.



Clear Sky

You can rent equipment and clothing and ski lessons can be arranged for children, beginners and snowboards.

The development of this resort and others must be a positive economic boost to the area. Carol (Yang XinLu) who is from ChongLi, and has worked at the resort for two years, indicated that most of the service labor are local and has raised their income levels.

Aside from the skiing in winter and mountain climbing in the summer, this area is the cleanest I have visited in China. The skies were clear and blue like home. So if you want to get away from the pollution levels recently experienced in Beijing and Tianjin, this is a good getaway.

I have seldom experienced such a quiet evening and had a hard time falling asleep the first night. I realized that I had become accustomed to construction and traffic noise of the city that was non-existent at the Secret Garden. In fact, one of the activities for the children is an Astronomy Club in the evening. The stargazing will identify the stars and even the satellites can be seen. Something that is impossible from the city.

The International Olympic Committee will select the host city for the 2022 Winter Olympics at the 127th IOC session in Malaysia on July 31, 2015. Good luck to China.

李叔同故居纪念馆

李叔同是中国著名的艺术家、音乐家、教育家、诗人和高僧。他1880年生于天津，曾经在日本学习。回到中国后，他担任过教师、编辑之职，后剃度为僧，法名演音，号弘一。曾经有一首特别有名的歌曲《送别》是李叔同根据一首美国歌曲重新填的词，一直传唱至今。

李叔同在天津的故居位于河北区。在他的故居基础上建造的李叔同故居博物馆目前免费参观，只要出示有效身份证件即可。他的故居并不是很大的宅邸，而是一个四合院式的住宅。这样的住宅在中国十分普遍，最外面的四面围墙把整个宅子与外界隔开。围墙里面既有房间也有庭院。

走进李叔同故居，你会看到蜿蜒小径、假山池塘和佛堂。里面有很多房间都可以参观，这些房间有不同的作用，比如谈生意、卧室、学习等等。每一个房间都展现了李叔同生活的一个方面。这些房间里都悬挂着字画，陈设了各种艺术品，还摆放了很多书籍。据说，李叔同从2岁到18岁都住在这座宅子里。之后他分别去了上海和日本求学，回到中国后，他去了浙江教书。37岁的时候，李叔同皈依佛门。晚年他在福建度过，直至去世。

我遇到了李叔同故居的馆长刘剑。他对李叔同的生平有深入的研究，他告诉我，李叔同在很多领域都可谓是先锋人物。李叔同创建了自己的书法体，他的书法作品现在依然能拍出很高的价钱。他还把西方戏剧引入中国，还是第一批探索人体绘画的艺术家之一。如果你想深入了解李叔同的生平和成就，你不妨让刘馆长和你聊聊。

天津有很多不同类型的博物馆，而且是免费参观的。通过这些博物馆设施，外国人可以对中国文化得到更多直观的感受，也是提高他们汉语水平的一个好机会。

The museum has used each indoor room as a display area for various aspects of Li ShuTong's life. Room contents include works of art, paintings, drawings, pictures, books and other artifacts.

ShuTong's more famous works is writing a new set of lyrics to the John Pond Ordway original "Dreaming of Home and Mother", with this new version being titled "Farewell" or "送别sòngbié" in Chinese.

Entrance to the museum is free, however you need to present a valid passport to enter. Pets and smoking are prohibited inside the museum. Every Monday the museum is closed. Tuesday through Sunday the museum is open from 9 am to 5 pm but you must enter the museum before 4 pm. The museum is also open on national holidays.

The Li ShuTong Birthplace Museum

Who is Li ShuTong (李叔同 lǐ shū tóng)? It is stated he is a famous artist, musician, educator, poet and Buddhist monk of Chinese decent, born in Tianjin in the year

1880, and having died in 1942. After spending some time in Japan, Li ShuTong returned to China, becoming a professor in the Province of Zhejiang (浙江省 zhè jiāng shěng). One of Li



Li ShuTong's statue



The pond in the courtyard

Upon arrival you will discover the Li ShuTong Birthplace Museum is not one large building with all displays being inside. Rather it is a 四合院 sìhéyuàn, namely a courtyard style residence. This type of residence once very popular in China is one where an exterior wall surrounds the entire property, effectively separating the "outside" from the "inside". "Inside" this wall, there is a mix of "indoor" and "outdoor" living space.

In the case of the Li ShuTong Birthplace Museum, some of the space inside the walls of his residence is in the form of open air space, with walking trails, ponds and a Buddhist shrine. In addition there are various "indoor" rooms throughout the property which can be entered into. These rooms had various uses during the time that Li ShuTong lived there, such as doing business, sleeping, studying, etc. Due to the fact that part of the museum space is indoors and part is outdoors, it is best you visit on a day when the weather is fairly decent.

As you walk around the courtyard and visit the different rooms you will get a strong sense of Chinese culture and Buddhism, as Li ShuTong was a devout Buddhist. The museum has used each indoor room as a display area for various aspects of Li ShuTong's life. Room contents include works of art, paintings, drawings, pictures, books and other artifacts. It was stated that Li ShuTong lived in this residence from approximately the age of 2 until 18. After which he moved to ShangHai due to health and study reasons, from Shanghai to Japan for about six or so years, then returned to China, spending some time in ZheJiang. At the age of 37 Li ShuTong decided to pursue his

study of Buddhism, became a monk and thereafter spent much time cataloging various Buddhist related information. The later years of Li ShuTong's life were spent in 福建 fújiàn until the time of his death.

In the rear area of the museum you will



The pond in the courtyard: A study room

find a work room where Mr. Liu Jian 刘剑 spends the majority of his time. Mr. 刘剑 serves, you could say, as a "museum curator". He is extremely well versed in all things Li ShuTong, having spent a considerable amount of time studying Li ShuTong as a person and his life's work. Mr. Liu sees Li ShuTong as a pioneer in many areas. Li ShuTong created his very own Chinese calligraphy font and was a renowned calligraphy master, even today Li ShuTong's calligraphy works are some of the most expensive in China. Li ShuTong introduced the western stage play to China. Li ShuTong was one of the first Chinese artists to use nude models. Li ShuTong was one of the first to thoroughly collect and organize core Buddhist beliefs. Li ShuTong was unique in his use of existing melodies well known abroad and then writing new lyrics for the song using Chinese. For those interested in fully understanding Li

ShuTong and all he represents, it is recommended you find time to sit and talk with Mr. Liu during your visit to the museum.

There are a number of museums in Tianjin, with the Li ShuTong Birthplace Museum being just one of them. Some of the positives of these museums are they are typically free of charge to enter, provide a looking glass into Chinese culture, and give expats an excellent opportunity to expand their Chinese language skills. In the case of the Li ShuTong Birthplace Museum, a greater grasp of the Chinese arts and their history is offered, not to mention being able to better understand the life and concepts surrounding a devout Buddhist monk.

In addition to visiting the museum itself, the surrounding area will provide many opportunities to discover Tianjin and get to know the people living here. For example, during my trip to the Li ShuTong museum I also visited the nearby Lion Bridge 狮子林桥 shīzi lín qiáo. There I found some "polar bears", that is men swimming in the river despite cold temperatures, fishermen fishing for who knows what, and a collection of men engaging in a totally wild activity of whipping around a long metal chain with some type of gun powder tip that made a huge boom sound. Proving once again, in Tianjin you never know what you might come across. So make it a goal to discover Tianjin. One option is to visit the Li ShuTong Birthplace Museum (李叔同故居纪念馆 lǐ shū tóng gùjū jìniàngū ě n) and expand your knowledge of Chinese art and culture. 李叔同 is a famous pioneer in Chinese music, calligraphy, theater and Buddhism, not to mention a Tianjin native. His former residence has been restored and is waiting for your visit!

To get to the Li ShuTong Museum by the subway take line 2 (yellow line) to the 建国道站 jiànguó dào zhàn, then take either the B or C exit. After exiting, you will need to get a cab. The cab ride should be a short one and amount to the base fair of 9 RMB. Regardless of where you start from, if you take a cab, you can show the cab driver these Chinese characters to get there: 李叔同故居纪念馆, 天津市河北区海河东路与滨海道交口. If traveling by bus, the nearest bus stop is 望海楼站 wàng hǎi lóu zhàn, the museum is just a short walk from that stop. Should you need to contact the museum by phone, the contact numbers are as follows: (022) 2445 8571 or 2445 8572, however please note phone service is only in Chinese.

Korean Air Chairman & CEO Cho Yang-ho Leads the Korea-U.S. Business Council



Chairman & CEO of Korean Air Cho Yang-ho participated in a meeting of the Korea-U.S. Business Council held in Los Angeles on Feb. 3-4 (local time) for the first time as Korean-side chairman of the council.

Established in 1988, the Korea-U.S. Business Council is made up of businessmen of the two countries and meets biannually to discuss pending business, diplomatic and security issues. Chairman Cho has chaired the Korean side of the council since last November.

During the LA meeting, Korean and American businessmen discussed measures to follow up the U.S. visit by Korean President Park Geun-hye. They also exchanged views on business investment projects of the two countries, private-sector cooperation for realizing a creative economy, participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and other trade issues.

Korean Air to code-share with Air Tahiti Nui on the Seoul-Papeete route

Korean Air has announced a codeshare agreement with Air Tahiti Nui, on the Seoul-Papeete (via Tokyo) route, commencing March 1, 2014. The code-share on the flights to Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia located on Tahiti, will provide increased convenience and choice to Korean Air passengers travelling to the island.



Saturday at 5:55 p.m. and arrives in Papeete at 10:05 a.m. the same day. The return flights depart from Papeete on Friday and Sunday at 8:10 a.m., arriving in Narita at 3:25 p.m. the following day. Korean Air's flight departs from Narita at 5 p.m. and arrives at Incheon International Airport at 7:50 p.m.

Code-share is an aviation business partnership through which a flight operated by one airline is jointly marketed by one or more other airlines. The purpose of code-share is to facilitate travel by allowing travelers to fly across the networks of multiple airlines with a single reservation in order to reach their final destination.

Among Korean Air's five daily flights to Tokyo Narita Airport, the most convenient flight for connections to Papeete departs from Seoul's Incheon International Airport at 10:10 a.m. and arrives in Narita at 12:30 a.m. the same day. Air Tahiti Nui's flight, an A340-300 seating 294 passengers, departs from Narita on Monday and

Korean Air supports Korean athletes at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics



Korean Air is offering active support for the Korean athletes participating in the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games, which started on Feb. 7.

The airline is operating chartered flights between Incheon and Sochi to transport the Korean athletes, staff members and journalists. Korean Air's first chartered flight to Sochi departed Incheon on Feb. 1.

They included Kim Jae-yeol, president of the Korea Skating Union and head of the Korean delegation, as well as skiing, bobsleigh, skeleton,

curling, luge, biathlon and speed skating athletes.

The company will operate three chartered flights in total, including two return flights from Sochi on Feb. 25.

Korean Air is also heavily committed to the training of Korean athletes. It launched a semi-professional speed skating team in March 2011, the first private company in Korea to do so, with two Vancouver Winter Olympics gold medalists, Lee Seung-hoon and Mo Tae-bum, as founding members.

The athletes in the team have been given systematic training under the full support of Korean Air since then, and are among the strongest gold medal candidates in the ongoing Sochi Olympics.

Service to Houston opens

Korean Air, America's largest Asian airline, is launching nonstop service between Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and Incheon International Airport in Seoul, in May 2014.

The inaugural flight will take place on May 2, with service aboard a B777-200 aircraft. Nonstop flights connecting the two destinations will depart from the Terminal D at Bush Intercontinental Airport every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

"We're very bullish on the Americas," says John Jackson, the airline's vice president of marketing for North and South America. "Houston is the fifth largest metro area in the U.S. with a very strong travel market to Asia. We've decided to earn our fair share of the market with a highly competitive product and service that's hard to beat."

Houston Mayor Annise Parker agrees with Jackson's assessment and says that the route represents an exceptional business opportunity for the Korean Air team.

"Houston's dynamic economy and diverse population continue to strengthen its position on the world stage," says Mayor Parker. "This

new nonstop flight to Seoul is an excellent example of Houston's enhanced status as a gateway city and key player in the global marketplace."

"We see continued opportunities in the Americas through our own efforts and through our membership in the SkyTeam alliance. And we'll add more capacity in a variety of other U.S. markets during the upcoming spring and summer seasons," Jackson said.

Houston represents Korean Air's 14th gateway in the Americas. Others include Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Sao Paulo, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver and Washington, D. C.

"The economic and cultural ties that exist between the city of Houston and Korea continue to grow stronger in the 21st century," says Houston Aviation Director, Mario Diaz. "Korean Air recognizes the potential that lies in this growing relationship and the Houston Airport System looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership."

Korean Air plans to expand long-haul flights and introduce two more A380 aircraft

Korean Air is further improving its passenger service by expanding operations on long-haul routes and introducing new aircraft.

The airline has increased services on the Incheon/Seoul-Moscow route from four to five times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays). Korean Air has concluded a code-share agreement with Aurora Airlines, which operates the Incheon/Seoul-Sakhalin route four times a week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays).

Service on Russian routes has been expanded to provide greater convenience for passengers, whose numbers are expected to rise because of the visa-free agreement between Korea and Russia that took effect on Jan. 1 this year.

In addition, Korean Air is flying daily from Incheon to Vladivostok, twice a week (Mondays and Fridays) to St. Petersburg and other major Russian cities, and three times a week to Tashkent in Uzbekistan (Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays).

Meanwhile, the Korean national flag carrier will introduce two more A380s this year. At present, it has eight A380s operating on major



routes including those to LA and New York City.

A380s are environment friendly next-generation superjumbo jets with high fuel efficiency. With high-quality seats and more space for in-flight services, the aircraft ensures that passengers have a pleasant flight.

Korean Air plans to introduce more next-generation planes to provide high-quality service to passengers.

Golf tournament of the New Year in Tianjin Warner Golf Club

As being a good start of the year of horse, Tianjin Warner Golf Club held the first golf tournament of the New Year on March 1st, 2014. the "Dragon Festival" Cup golf tournament was started in a longing and joyful atmosphere. The total players of this tournament are more than 100, in addition to the business elite, the honored guest groups are paired by diplomats from different embassies in Beijing. During the tournament, the players enjoyed a wonderful golf time while sharing the culture difference, which demonstrates that Warner is playing a role of international communication community.

Tianjin Warner golf club is located in the 2nd Avenue, was opened in the beginning of 1998. It is the only golf club located in the city with standard 18 holes golf course, which enhances the urban quality of TEDA greatly

Tianjin Warner International Golf Club hosted the Asian Cup-TEDA Open golf tournament successfully both in 1999 and 2004, as well as the CPGA Championship in 2005. It was elected as one of twenty most competitive golf courses in China.



Kerry Hotel, Beijing Fundraises to Feed Pandas for Earth Hour 2014



Kerry Hotel, Beijing will start things off for Earth Hour 2014 with a month-long campaign to build awareness about what everyone can do to help protect the planet.

Starting 1 March 2014, guests are welcome to purchase special Earth Hour cupcakes from Kerry's Pantry or Adventure Zone. These hand-made cupcakes will be sold at RMB20 and carry a QR code that will give guests some energy-saving tips. Guests may then screenshot their favourite tip, share it on social media and bring in the screenshot for

free shooters during Earth Hour (29 March 2014 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.). At this time, the hotel will power down and shut off all non essential lighting in the guestroom corridors and staff areas. Additionally, all exterior lighting will be switched off. Everyone is invited to gather in the lobby and join the hotel for an unplugged jam session with the house band. For cupcake orders please contact Kerry's Pantry on (8610) 8565 2788.

The ambassador for the Earth Hour cupcakes is the hotel's Adventure Zone mascot, Jia Bao the panda. One hundred per cent of the profits from the cupcakes will be donated to Jia Bao's panda friends in Sichuan, China. Specifically, funds raised will go to Shangri-La's Care for Panda Project. The project supports a 1.6-hectare bamboo plantation that will ensure food security for the country's beloved pandas. The plantation is scheduled to open to the public this year.

Tangla Hotel Tianjin Brilliantly Appeared in Tianjin Wedding Expo

Tianjin, China- 3 March 2014 Tianjin Wedding Expo 2014 which was organized by 591 Marriage Network was successfully held on March 1-2, 2014 at the Tianjin Meijiang International Conference and Exhibition Center. Tangla Hotel Tianjin brilliantly appeared in this important event in wedding industry. The Wedding Expo of this time brought together hundreds of famous wedding brands and merchants, compromised the most fashion wedding elements both in home and abroad, and provided an excellent platform for wedding enterprises to show their brand image, promote the products and service and learn from each other. This is not only a Tianjin wedding event, but also a first-class Wedding Expo in Northern China. As an exhibitor, TangLa Hotel Tianjin creates an elaborate design and preparation, to bring the visual, tactile extraordinary experience for the visiting guests.

As the first hotel in mainland China and the sixth hotel globally to be bestowed the "International Six Star Diamond Award" by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences, Tangla Hotel Tianjin carries out the traditional oriental culture essence. Every romantic occasion here honors a love story that spans from perfect proposals and dream weddings, to unforgettable honeymoons and cherished anniversaries. The Grand Ballroom, beautifully decorated to suit the most romantic minds, is equipped with the latest audio visual and lighting system, a guarantee of a quality wedding. The specially-arranged Wedding Room, exuding understated charm and romance, is a most sweet finish to the most important day in your life.

The fantastic show of Tangla Hotel Tianjin in Tianjin Wedding Expo 2014 successfully unfolded an array of hotel unique wedding provisions, enhanced Tangla brand awareness and reputation, and made an important step towards hotel's goal to be the best luxury hotel in Tianjin!



The Tianjin Comedy Night

The historic Astor Hotel has been the site of many famous nights and parties. They have hosted several celebrities, including two United States Presidents. It is the oldest international hotel in China and faces the scenic waterfront of the city. It also boasts the oldest still operational elevator in China.

On Saturday March 15th, they had the honor of hosting the Tianjin Comedy Night. Seven comedians (Emily Foate, Jack Smith, Jeffrey Schwab, Lottie Dowling, Merriden Varrall, Paul Creasy and Peter Deng) were invited to perform for a select group of about 30 guests. The comedians were all native English speakers, barring their Chinese accompanist. He provided music throughout the show on the guitar.



The seven actors entertained the audience with two hours of improvised comedy, with a small intermission. The show was completely unplanned, and the actors played a series of games for the enjoyment of the audience. They used suggestions from the audience for each game to make the show personalized to the patrons in attendance.

For an hour before the show started, the guests were treated to a complimentary selection of wine, beer and other spirits. There were several hors d'oeuvres for the guests to sample, such as bruschetta, finger sandwiches, mini cakes and other delicious treats. The staff of the Astor did a wonderful job hosting this comedy night. It was a perfectly sized venue for the event. Local media outlets, including JIN Magazine, hosted the show.

Everything took a new look in spring



Protron Consulting Company held its New Year Celebration Banquet at the Supreme Chinese Restaurant in Renaissance Tianjin Downtown Hotel Tianjin on March 13, 2014. The guests who are HR managers from international companies,

local media group and royal business partners enjoyed the tasty food and wonderful music performance all together. Moreover, at the end of the banquet, the lucky draws brought the atmosphere to the climax.

With headquarters in Hong Kong, Protron Consulting Group was established in 1991. Protron stands for "Professional Training & Consulting" and the mission is to promote management excellence as it symbols in the Chinese character company logo. Business scopes of Protron include executive recruitment, management training, business English training (with a formally licensed training school in China) and management consulting (management diagnosis). Protron entered China in 1995 and with stable development during these 20 years, currently they have built up branches or offices in Guangzhou, Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Macau and Taiwan etc.

Discover The Love Beyond Time

An elegant vintage wedding fair has hold at the Grand Ballroom of Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel on Saturday 15th of March 2014 from 13:30 – 17:00. There are more than 200 guests has attended event.



10 wedding related exhibitors had join the event, included hotel, wedding planner, media, wedding dress and suit, video and photography production, jewelry, wine, travel agency, bank, and wedding cake, every guest had a special time there.

The MC had given a warm greeting to everyone in the event that wishes all the couples tie the knot and eternal love. Hotel also presented the changed of wedding style by different times and the modern classic wedding style by today. From the traditional Chinese red veil to the Western wedding dress, the wedding style has dramatically changed in the past decades. Time changes but only love lasts forever, the wedding ceremony was romantic and sweet. There were many interactive games with guests during the event, and all winners have got special gifts from us. A wedding fashion show featured both male and female style with customized dress and jewelries. The most exciting part is the lucky draw, there were more than 20 lucky guests took home prizes, which are from all the sponsors and our sister hotels.

The elegant black touch of vintage red, presented classic moment of modern wedding style, which to make your special day one to cherish for a lifetime. Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel's professional wedding coordinators are devoted to making your dreams come.

Sheraton Tianjin 2014 Love Last - White Valentine's Wedding Fair staged

After successfully held the wedding fair in 2013, the "Love Last" themed White Valentine's Wedding Fair is being staged again on March 14th and March 15th in Sheraton Tianjin Hotel. The exhibition is subject to display the new trend of wedding in 2014 to couples.

The Love Last themed White Valentine's Wedding Fair lasts two days on the 2nd floor of Sheraton Tianjin Hotel. It is worth mentioning that hotel specially prepared the romantic western style dinner to couples so that they can enjoy the bride show while dinner. More specifically, the couples who attended the show all obtained the special value offer of holding wedding in Sheraton Tianjin Hotel. During the show time, a serving dishes performance is staged in a large scale of which attracts the audiences mostly. More romantic coincidentally, there's a pair of new couple joining the dinner of who get married on March 14th rightly and the bridegroom re-proposed to the bride impressively, all audiences are moved by the true love expression.

The wedding fair decorated in different styles respectively of which lasts two days. From the latest in wedding fashion accessories, flowers, cakes, wedding host and all the things that go into making every wedding unique and special, exhibitors at the Sheraton Tianjin Hotel Bridal Show showcase the best of the best.





Tianjin Networking Club at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin

Since spring is approaching, a new session of TNC event was held at the wonderful Purple Bar at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin on March 18, 2014. A lot of professionals and entrepreneurs attended the event. The event is organized by Jin Magazine, and co-organized by American Chamber of Commerce, European Chamber of Commerce, German Chamber of Commerce, Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

We were excited to see many new faces that day, such as the management team of Shangri-La Hotel Tianjin. The new comers to Tianjin were eager to know about the local business environment and look for opportunities. So TNC is definitely the best platform for people like this since the spirit of TNC is about mutual help and mutual benefit.

The Promotion Officer of TNC made a presentation about the event and hosted the lucky draw session with the new General Manager, Mr. Maurice Cook of Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Tianjin. Moreover, the Radisson and Dikara Spa Center sponsored coupon for the lucky draw winners.

The event proved to be another great success. TNC social event has become the most important and influential business event in Tianjin and we look forward to seeing you in May.

For more information, please log on: www.tjnetworkclub.org or email: tnc@jinmagazine.com.cn



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为你的家增添自然气息

都市生活充满压力，人们都试图在钢筋水泥的丛林中寻找一些自然的气息。但我们都知道这其实很难，所以我们不妨先给自己的家增添一点生气。植物和水族箱是最适合普通家庭的，它们不但能起到装点家居的作用，还对健康很有益处。

在医院里放置绿植可以帮助病人更快恢复健康，教室里的植物能促进学生提高注意力。而大多数人关心的则是植物对抵抗污染和雾霾的作用。在室内放置绿植可以增加室内含氧量，在光合作用中释放出水分，增加市内湿度，缓解呼吸系统不适，减少皮肤干燥以及患上感冒的几率。美国宇航局的研究显示，植物可以把密闭空气中的污染物吸入土壤，从而起到净化空气的作用。植物根部的微生物可以转化为可挥发性有机物，成为植物的养料。芦荟、棕榈竹、菊花、吊兰都是适合家庭摆放的植物。

有些房主不喜欢租户养宠物，但鱼就不同了，比猫猫狗狗要好养得多，每天为少许鱼食，每周换一次水就可以了。有研究显示，养鱼可以降低血压，放松心情。只要你盯着鱼缸看上一段时间，你就会有昏昏欲睡的感觉。有多动症的孩子在一个有鱼缸的环境里也会稍显安静。

位于贵州路的吉利花园花鸟鱼虫市场是天津最有名的，它位于市中心，共有四层。一层卖观赏鱼和相关品，第二层卖其他类型宠物，三层卖各种绿植和盆栽，四层是首饰和装饰品。

最后要提醒大家事先在网上查好应该买哪种植物，然后就立刻行动起来！

Bringing Nature Home

By Daniel McCool

Urban life can be stressful, and bleak subway walls do nothing to keep us grounded and sane. If you find it difficult to find an adequate amount of nature while living in the concrete jungle, then bring a little bit of the real jungle to you. In this article, we will explore some benefits of having plant life and a fish aquarium in your apartment: aside from the decorative benefits, there are numerous health benefits, as well.

Plants used in hospitals have been found to help patients recover quicker, while plants used in classrooms have shown to increase attendance and attentiveness. For the vaster majority, pollution and air quality are the more potent of concerns. Here are some benefits plant life can have on indoor air quality and health:

- Adding indoor plants can increase oxygen levels. The CO2 we exhale provides the plants what they need and, in turn, the plants respire the oxygen we need as a natural part of photosynthesis. Oxygen gives us energy and increases alertness, concentration, and memory.

- Plants also produce moisture during the photosynthesis process, releasing roughly 97 percent of the water they take in, helping to keep respiratory distress at bay and decreasing the incidence of dry skin,

colds, sore throats, and dry coughs.

- NASA research discovered that plants purify trapped air by pulling contaminants into soil, where root zone microorganisms convert volatile organic compounds into food for the plant.

Here are some suggested plant choices: Aloe Vera (芦荟), Boston Fern (棕榈竹), Corn Cane or Mass Cane (龙血树), Chrysanthemums (菊花), and Spider Plant (吊兰) to name a few, though you are not restricted to only these.

Many people like to keep pets, but some landlords don't allow dogs and some pets are smelly or inconvenient. Fish, on the other hand, can be put anywhere outside the sun and are extremely easy to care for. Here are some benefits



Place a plant in your room

Studies have shown that keeping an aquarium can lower blood pressure and relax the busy mind.

of keeping an aquarium:

- Studies have shown that keeping an aquarium can lower blood pressure and relax the busy mind. Most effects that come out of looking at an aquarium are very closely related to those of light hypnosis stages.
- Hyperactive children also seem to slow down when a fish tank is around.
- Dental patients have also been shown to require less pain mediation, and Alzheimer's patients have been shown to regain their



A fish market

appetites when a fish bowl was placed in their dining room.

Fish are far easier to take care of than dogs or cats: they are quiet and simply need a few pellets of food a day and a water change every week.

The place I like to go for my indoor plant and aquarium needs is 花鸟鱼虫市场 (Huā Niǎo Yú Chóng Shì Chǎng: 1-4F, Jili Garden, 27 Gui Yang Lu, Heping District), a four-storey market. The first floor is home to fish and fish supplies. The second floor is where to find other pets, such as rodents, cats and dogs, and even veterinarians. The third floor is the floor of plant life and potting and planting supplies, while the fourth floor provides jewelry and art décor.

Parting Advice: Research plant choices online, as well as how to care for a home aquarium. It's easier than you think. I've got about 60 fish at home and am loving it, and continue to add plant life to my apartment's interior. 'Nature' is the root word of 'natural' for a reason. Don't wait until you're already disconnected – get started now. I wish you increased health and greater peace of mind.



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