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今日天津

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TIANJIN TODAY 2014/05



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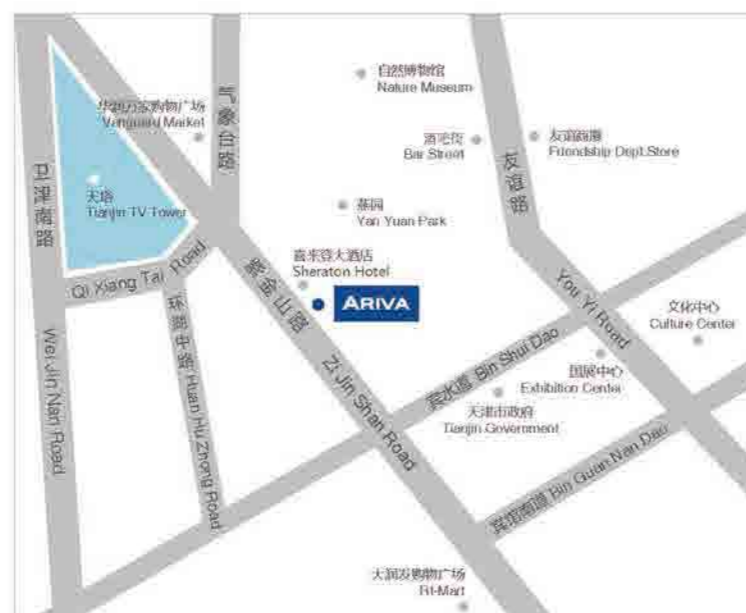


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great plan, together



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Letter from the Editor

We start May with the Labor Day holiday and look forward to the start of summer and outdoor activities as the city parks have become green and flowers are blooming. Soon we will have many of the fruit trees in bloom such as apples, peaches, and cherries. The fifth Tongzhou strawberry music festival will be held May 1-3 at Tongzhou Canal Park, Beijing.

There are also several music concerts in Tianjin for the month of May featuring traditional Chinese opera and Western themes, check them out in our events section and on the web.

This month's feature article is about living with Smartphones and how they have dominated our personal and business lives. It is really amazing to realize that the first wireless cell phone came on the market only 30 years ago. It weighed one kilogram and could only work for 30 minutes after being fully charged and cost over \$4,000 US dollars. We are now seeing 4G, fourth generation phones in the market, that are virtually hand held computers, which we rely on totally for our every day chores.

Smartphones are also a big part of our business lives. With over half million applications, our phones can do almost anything from booking plane tickets and hotels to turning your lights on and off at home. Not to mention banking and buying everything from food to clothing on TaoBao.

However there is a downside, are we too dependent on these devices? Look around and you will see virtually everyone with their heads lowered and devoted to their phones. Should we be putting them down for some personal face-to-face conversations especially during meals with family and friends? Try it for an hour.

Other articles in this issue will try to explain the new driving restrictions and local fast foods.

美好的五月从劳动节开始，从骄阳似火的夏天开始，从活力四射的户外活动开始，从振奋人心的一年一度的草莓音乐节开始。还是那个时间5月1日-3日，还是那个地点北京通州运河公园，第五届通州草莓音乐节又来了！

当然，精彩的五月，天津也为你准备了丰富的娱乐活动。想了解更多？记得随时关注我们的演出信息和我们的网站。

本月的专题文章是关于智能手机，透过文章让我们一起看看这小小的手机是如何影响了我们的生活和工作。其实第一台无线手机的诞生，也就是30年前的事。而那时这样一个重达2斤，充电一次也仅能维持30分钟的机器，售价竟高达4000美元之多。而在今天，当市场上4G手机都屡见不鲜的时候，智能已经渗透到我们的生活里了。

智能手机也是我们商务生活的一大部分。从预定机票、饭店到遥控你家电灯的开关，有超过50万的应用程序方便你的生活。更别提只是在淘宝上买买衣服，逛逛商店，还还贷款了。

这究竟是不是一个弊端？我们是否过于依赖这些设备？环顾四周，你会发现几乎每个人都在低着头，专注于手机。我在想当我们与家人朋友相处时，是否应该先把手机收起来呢？哪怕只有一个小时！

David Wong

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The names of the honorary advisors are listed according to the alphabetical order of the first name initial.

以上荣誉顾问按姓名首字母顺序排列, 排列不分先后。

Tianjin Stops Providing Free Hukous to New House-buyers

■ 天津5月将取消蓝印户口政策或引发津郊楼市降价

天津卫视4月17日报道称,天津实施多年的蓝印户口政策将于近日取消。“即从2014年5月31日起,停止外省市人员通过购买商品住房、投资兴办企业和引进人才办理蓝印户口。而已经办理蓝印户口或正在办理蓝印户口的外省市人员可以按照原先规定办理相关户口。”

报道称,蓝印户口在天津市经济发展中发挥了重要作用,但也出现了一些问题。目前,考虑到天津市已经建立起多层次的户籍准入渠道,今年1月1日又施行了居住证管理制度和积分落户规定,因此可以实施停止新办蓝印户口的政策。

The Tianjin Municipality will stop issuing blueprint Chinese household registration or "hukou" certificates to house-buyers in the city from May 31 2014, the TJTV news reports.

The policy is bad news for developers, posing a particular challenge to sales of houses in remote parts of the city.

Tianjin had been issuing blueprint hukou certificates to residents of other provinces who buy commercial housing in the city since 2009, enabling them to enjoy the same welfare conditions as those with a Tianjin hukou and allowing them to receive a Tianjin hukou after a certain period of time.

The policy had aimed to attract more investment and talents. The abolishment of the policy will likely discourage many potential house-buyers from making purchases in Tianjin.

Zhang Dawei, chief analyst of Centaline Group, said the housing demand will be cut by 20 percent with the cancellation of the blueprint hukou policy, and in the Wuqing district, an area close to Beijing, the figure is expected to fall by 50 percent.

Zhang predicted that house prices in Wuqing district will plunge and those in the downtown area will also decline slightly.

Still, some developers have found that other opportunities make Wuqing an attractive site for investment. As the integration of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei progresses, Wuqing, the district on the border to Beijing's fastest-developed eastern part, is set to attract more businesses.

Free Bicycles for Rent

■ 天津市公共自行车试点启动

4月19日,景区公益自行车启动仪式在小白楼地铁站隆重举行,预示着备受各方期待的景区公益自行车终于走进津城,来到市民与游客身边。

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From April 19th, a public bicycle rental system will be implemented in Tianjin. The first two hours of bicycle use will be free of charge, then 1 RMB will be charged for every subsequent hour. There will be over 300 bicycle terminuses near subways, bus stops, large residential communities and business areas around Tianjin. The first terminus will be established at the Tianjin International Trade Center near Xiao Bai Lou subway station.

As the trial terminal is closed to the Wu Da Dao tourism area, the bicycles provide a convenient and environment-friendly transportation for tourists who can take their time to enjoy the beauty of the area.

Tianjin Airport Links to Beijing Rail

■ 天津机场在京设置候机楼,旅客可免费乘高铁大巴

记者从天津滨海国际机场获悉,天津机场北京南站城市候机楼最快将于本月正式开通运营。届时,北京市民可从北京南站免费乘坐京津城际列车,到达天津站后再免费换乘机场巴士,在1小时至1.5小时内到达天津机场,比去首都机场的时间还要短。

北京南站城市候机楼可为旅客提供便捷的机票预订购买及领取登机牌等值机服务,可为旅客前往天津机场提供全封闭、一站式的便捷运输服务,为旅客节省去往机场的时间和交通费用。

Tianjin Binhai International Airport has built a ticketing facility at Beijing South Railway Station, with the goal of attracting passengers who want to avoid the one-hour travel time between the station and the Tianjin airport.

Passengers will be able to buy air tickets and complete check-in procedures at the Beijing station, and then take the 30-minute bullet train to Tianjin Railway Station free of charge. A bus will then carry passengers to the Tianjin Binhai International Airport, also free.

"The cost of the train and bus will be returned to passengers after their journey," said Xu Lijuan, a senior official of the Tianjin airport.

The new ticketing and check-in facility underwent a trial run at the end of March, Xu said, and saw "an increasing number of passengers from southern Beijing choosing the new system."

"After it opens in May, about 1.4 million passengers will be expected to take off from Tianjin instead of Beijing this year," Xu said.

In 2013, the Tianjin airport processed handled about 10 million passenger trips, about 12 percent of the passenger count of Beijing Capital International Airport.

"It is a new model to link the railway and the airline, building a faster and more convenient travel line for some travelers," said Zhang Hu, sales manager of the marketing department of the Tianjin airport.

Tianjin Binhai airport has also worked with Beijing's airport to jointly develop more flights and airlines, with the target to boost a better development of Tianjin airport.

To meet the travel demand for residents in Hebei province, the Tianjin airport has set up terminals in Cangzhou and Huanghua in the neighboring province, and is planning to expand its operating model to Qinhuangdao, Tangshan and Beidaihe.

Terminal 2 of the Tianjin airport is expected to be operational by August. It is expected to handle 30 to 50 million passenger trips in the coming year.

A New Commercial Facility Converted from the Old Minyuan Stadium to Open in May

■ 天津民园体育场改造商业综合体 5月运营

改造后的和平区民园体育场将在5月以商业综合体的全新面貌亮相。承载了天津人近百年记忆的民园体育场,其改造主体工程已经完成,目前正在进行内部装潢。改造后的民园广场按照业态规划共分为旅游服务、休闲体育、万国餐饮、特色文化四个板块和高端办公区。据了解,新的民园广场项目招商面积约3万平方米,共规划大小商铺40余个,其中面积最大的约2000平方米,最小的约40平方米。

和平区相关负责人表示,民园广场将整合先农大院等周边服务设施,努力打造区域性商业服务圈。

The renovation to the century-old Minyuan Stadium is close to completion now. The new functions of the compound include travel service, recreation and sports, international cuisines, cultural sections and office area. The business area is about 30,000m² with over 40 shops. The whole compound is to open during the May Day holiday.

According to a person in charge from Heping District, the Minyuan square will integrate the service facilities of Xiannong Courtyard and build up a regional business circle with harmonious architectural style.

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05/06,07

Drama: At the Bottom
19:30
话剧:《在底层》
演出:俄罗斯莫斯科高尔基模范
艺术剧院

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

05/10-11

Children's play: Cinderella
and Her Crystal Shoes
儿童剧《灰姑娘与水晶鞋》
10:30&15:30

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

05/17

Miyazaki Hayao Animation OST
Concert
20:00
最初的梦想·宫崎骏动画主题音乐会

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

05/23

King of Gypsy Piano-Roby Lakatos and his band
19:30
吉普赛小提琴之王——罗比·拉卡托斯和他的乐队音乐会
来自于被李斯特和贝多芬誉为“吉普赛小提琴之王”的传奇音乐世家,当代最出色
的吉卜赛即兴音乐表演家。

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

05/30

Song of Vienna
String quartet paying tribute
to Beethoven
20:00
维也纳之歌——弦乐四重奏音乐会

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

05/07,14,21,28

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Email Daniel at ddkonold@umn.edu or Wechat at [dkdaniu](https://www.wechat.com/p/dkdaniu)
with any questions~



05/09

Pianist Yao Jue and Hong
Kong String Orchestra
The Four Seasons by Vivaldi
The Four Seasons by Piazzolla
19:30
姚珏和香港弦乐团音乐会
四季/维瓦尔第
四季/皮亚佐拉

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

05/17

Chang, Csun Yuk Sunny
Day Tianjin Concert

Tianjin Sports Center
19:30
2014张震岳「艳阳天」巡回演唱会
天津站



05/10

A Date at Early Summer
Ensemble concert of stringed instrument, piano and brass-wind
instrument
20:00
初夏的约会——弦乐、钢琴与铜管乐器重奏音乐会

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

05/11

Mozart's Requiem
19:30
莫扎特安魂曲——古典音乐精英
系列之六

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

05/18

Ars Trio di Roma Recital?
19:30
罗马阿尔斯钢琴三重奏音乐会

No. 88, Jiange Road, Heping
和平区建设路88号
Tel: 2332 0068

05/16-17

Drama: Thunderstorm 2014
Directed by Lin Zhaohua and
starred by Pu Cunxi
19:30
林兆华戏剧作品《雷雨2014》
纪念曹禺代表作《雷雨》诞生80周年

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

05/22-23

Drama: Persona Marilyn
Performed by Poland Warsaw
Theatre
话剧《假面·玛丽莲》
“欧洲剧场奖”得主克里斯提安·陆
帕剖开20世纪性感女星玛丽莲·梦露
的灵魂牢笼之力作。

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

05/24

Asian Artwalk
Original music of artists from China, Sri Lanka
and Spain
20:00
亚洲艺术漫步·来自中国·斯里兰卡·西班牙的新声音

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



05/31

2014 Stephanie Sun
Kepler World Tour

Tianjin Olympic Center
19:30

2014孙燕姿“克卜勒”
世界巡回演唱会天津站



05/31

Quite Riverbank
Trio of oboe, bassoon and
piano
20:00
静谧的河畔——双簧管、大管、钢琴
三重奏音乐会

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

05/31-06/01

Children's Play: Canned Man
10:30&15:30

儿童剧《罐头小人》

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

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Smartphones

-smart if used properly

By David Wong and Carmen King

用对了才是智能手机

世界上第一部手机诞生于摩托罗拉公司，售价4000美元。大约一公斤的重量和方方正正的造型，让手机也被称作“砖头”，充满电的手机只能通话30分钟。

在中国大陆，手机是几个香港商人作为炫富的工具首先带入的。当时，手机在大陆几乎无法使用，因为手机信号基地的建立还很滞后。当时人们把手机叫做“大哥大”，不仅是因为它的体积大，还因为手机是财富和地位的象征。

时至今日，世界上有超过50亿的手机用户，很多还拥有不止一部手机。去年，全球共售出18亿部手机。

30年来我们取得了多大的进步？80年代我们迎来了第一代手机，1991年手机进入2G时代。2001年，日本首先出现了3G电话，在数据传输速度和数据容量上都有很大提升。现在我们已经进入了4G网络时代，能够更快地传输图片、视频或电影。

预计到2020年，我们会迎来5G时代，数据传输进一步提速的同时，电池电量也会得到更好的利用。其实，科学家们现在正研究利用太阳能或WiFi信号给手机充电。设备的体积也会进一步缩小，甚至被设计成手表或眼镜。

这些飞速的进步正在改变我们的工作和生活方式。每次在地铁车厢里，我都能看到很多乘客低着头，完全沉浸在他们的手机里。他们用手机聊天、阅读、看新闻或打游戏。有一次，我在一家餐厅看到有个父亲一把抢走儿子的手机，因为他儿子只顾着玩手机，既不吃饭也不理睬同桌的客人，那个男孩才九岁。

智能手机让人们的生活变得更加便利。目前，手机购物成为增长最快的移动业务。以淘宝商城为例，到2013年3月，大约有7.6亿件商品在淘宝上出售，交易额达到1万亿元。有一次，我告诉助理我在上海喝到一种味道很好的果茶，结果转头她就在淘宝上帮我买到了这个牌子的茶并且很快就快递到了公司。

但是智能手机的发展也带来一些副作用。废弃手机含有的化学物质和零部件都不能在自然界降解，会对环境造成危害。手机辐射也一直是人们关心的话题。有调查显示，手机在移动过程中产生的辐射水平会大幅上升。长时间使用手机会导致听力损伤。在黑暗的环境下长时间盯着手机屏幕还会影响正常的睡眠周期。

手机成瘾症已经成为现代人的通病。在任何一家餐厅，你都会发现在同一个桌子吃饭的人都各自玩着自己的手机。这样做其实是非常不礼貌的，但人们似乎已经习以为常。下次你不妨在吃饭的时候关掉手机，多和身边的朋友面对面交流一下。

美国人每天平均花在社交媒体上的时间是37分钟，比任何互联网活动花的时间都要长。这其中又有60%是在手机或平板上使用社交媒体的。在中国，这一比例可能更高。

每一个信息提示音都会让我们异常兴奋。有时候我们还会不自觉地拿起手机去看有没有新信息，哪怕我们正在和朋友聊天。科学家们已经开始研究人类对智能手机的依赖症。彼得·怀依布罗博士在其著作《狂躁王国》中从精神学的角度阐述了

人们对现代科技的依赖症，以及科技对大脑处理压力的影响。了解这些有助于我们控制对科技的使用，而不是让科技控制我们。

我和几个朋友聊起手机对我们生活的影响。毫无疑问地，他们都承认如果出门没带手机，他们一定会回去拿。他们也明白，有其他人看的时候拿起手机看信息是件不礼貌的事。其中一个人说：“我可以试着关机，但希望我不会错过什么。”

手机是因为各种APP程序的植入而变得智能的。2013年10月，苹果应用商店宣称从这下载的APP已经达到600个。功能单一的老人机自然不能承载这些功能。大屏幕、大电池容量和大存储空间都是消费者选购手机时首要考虑的因素。没有这些APP，智能手机既不智能也没意思。智能手机和APP的关系有点像鸡和蛋的关系：智能手机推动了APP的开发和销售；如果不需要这些APP，你要智能手机干什么？

那么在中国，哪些手机APP最流行呢？第一个类别影音APP。在中国，下载音乐和视频大都是免费的，所以安装一个媒体播放器就可以尽情收听、收看和下载。QQ音乐一直排在该类别排行榜的首位。视频APP也有很多选择，比如优酷、搜狐视频、PPTV、Letv、凤凰视频、爱奇艺等等。这些APP上有海量免费音乐和视频资源。

除此之外，使用人数最多的要属腾讯微信了。我身边的人无一不使用微信，甚至一些外国人也开始使用微信了。微信的发展就是典型的把传统通讯方式重新包装成全新的通讯软件并在市场上形成垄断。

微信的迅速流行主要归结于两个因素。首先，中国消费者的省钱意识非常强。中国很多手机套餐都不能做到短信全免费，超过套餐规定的短信数要支付每条1毛的费用。而使用微信只走少量流量，所以是十分经济实惠的通讯方式。其次，微信允许语音的传输，这对用户来说是一个全新的体验。虽然这种形式脱胎于电话最初的通话功能，但被腾讯重新包装成新性能，所以受到用户的青睐。

在购物类APP中，淘宝、京东都名列前茅。它们的功能类似于eBay和亚马逊，满足了不同人群的购物需求。如果你想进行网上购物，支付宝是你必须要安装的APP，这个第三方支付软件能够增加交易安全性。

时下最为火热的APP要属打车软件“嘀嘀打车”和“快的打车”了。这两个APP功能十分类似，目的就是帮助用户通过手机更方便地打到车。你既可以预约也可以随时呼叫出租车。抵达目的地之后，你同样要通过手机支付费用，免去了找零钱的麻烦。

当然，智能手机是把双刃剑。关键时刻它也许能救你的命（通过紧急呼救APP叫救护车），也可能要了你的命（开车时发短信）。难道人类的智慧能够发明智能手机，却不能很好地使用手机？我们需要考虑如何防止自己沉溺于日新月异的手机技术以及这种沉迷带来的长期负面影响。



The first generation of Da Ge Da

Do you remember the first handheld mobile phone? It was invented by Rudy Krolopp, Martin Cooper and John Francis Mitchell at Motorola and cost almost \$4,000 US. It weighed 2.2 pounds or one kilogram and was called a “brick” because it looked and weighed like one. You could make up to 30 minutes of calls after charging the phone overnight.

In China, it was introduced by a few of the international Hong Kong businessmen who used it more to show off. It was not very functional since there was very limited reception due to the lack of transmission towers. The phone was referred to as a Da Ge Da “Big Brother” big because of its size but also slang for a mafia boss.

At present, it is estimated that there are

over 5 billion phone-users and many users have more than one phone. The estimate in 2007 was almost 50% of the world population were cell phone subscribers, that total is now likely to be 80%. Last year, there were 1.8 billion phones sold worldwide.

My, how far we have advanced in just 30 years. The first generation of phones was started in the 80’s and followed with the second generation or 2G in 1991. The 3G phones hit the market in Japan in 2001 by NTT that increased data transfer and capacity. We are now in the 4G transition with access to internet and capability of a hand held computer and taking photos and video or making a movie.

The 5G technology, expected by 2020, will see many changes such as greater data capacity and better battery usage. In fact, research is now looking at developing solar power and the ability to charge from the Wi-Fi signal. The units will be smaller and can be worn as a watch or in glasses. (Not sure about this development, as I was just thrilled with

The 5G technology, expected by 2020, will see many changes such as greater data capacity and better battery usage.



4G era has come.

the large screen of my Samsung Galaxy, having a screen as small as a watch would be difficult for me to accept.)

All this new fast paced technology has changed how we live and how we work. Communication is now instantaneous. Yesterday, I watched as a father had to physically take away his son’s smartphone because he was not eating his meal in a very expensive restaurant and not paying any attention to their guests. The son was about 9 years old.

How many times have you seen subway passengers completely engrossed with their smartphones, sitting or standing, they are using their phones to chat, read or watch the news or playing games. Its amazing how much time we are devoting to these “Devices of Mass Communication” as referred to by my pastor when he asks us to turn them off during the service.

There are restaurants in the West that give a 10% discount if customers turn in their phones at the front desk before dining. Something that would not happen in China. Most restaurants now feature free Wi-Fi, free wireless access for an internet signal. There are also mobile Wi-Fi devices that you can purchase so you can access the internet signal anywhere that has a transmission tower.

This blanket access to communication and social networking was referred to as “Crackberry” in the United States, a reference to the Blackberry smartphone when it was introduced in 2003 and the addictive nature of its use compared to be addicted to cocaine, which is called “crack” in slang terms.

The nature of instant information has resulted in a smarter consumer. The growing trend is to make purchases on line and can be easily done via a smartphone. Taobao Marketplace 淘宝网; Táobāo Wǎng) is a website for online shopping in Chinese language, similar to the USA eBay and Amazon. The Alibaba Group operates Taobao in China. Founded by the Alibaba Group on May 10, 2003, Taobao Marketplace facilitates consumer to consumer (C2C) retail by providing a platform for small businesses and individual entrepreneurs to open online retail stores that mainly cater to consumers in China.

With around 760 million product listings as of March 2013, Taobao Marketplace is one of the world’s top 20 most visited websites. For the year ended March 31, 2013, the combined gross merchandise volume (GMV) exceeded 1 trillion Yuan.



Preoccupied people are their smart phones

Sellers are able to post new and used goods for sale or resale on the Taobao Marketplace either through a fixed price or by auction. The overwhelming majority of the products on Taobao Marketplace are brand new merchandise sold at a fixed price, while auctions merely make up a very small percentage of transactions. Buyers can assess seller backgrounds by information available on the site, including ratings, comments and complaints.

I recall mentioning to my assistant that I just tried a brand of fruit tea that I liked while traveling to a Shanghai hotel and by the next day she had found it on Taobao and bought it on line and was delivered to our office. Recently we were shopping for light bulbs and decided to replace our existing ones with LED Light bulbs. We did not know the price and the vendor was asking for 35 rmb, which seemed high. A quick smartphone search on-line showed the same product at half the price and the vendor dropped their price in order to complete the sale.

There are some negative aspects of this modern crutch. Many of the chemicals and components in a phone are environmentally unsafe if not disposed of safely, so make sure you turn your unwanted phone back in to the

dealer instead of just throwing it in the garbage.

Studies have shown that radiation is transmitted from a smartphone, a recent television show demonstrated that the radiation level rose dramatically when the smartphone was being transported, such as in a vehicle or on a subway train. When the smartphone is moving, the signal reception is more difficult to obtain, and therefore the signal is increased.

There are also studies of increased radiation and side effects from prolonged use of earphones, which can result in long-term hearing loss. A recent study also suggested that normal sleeping cycles are affected due to prolonged viewing of smartphone screens especially in a dark room, which intensifies the light, emitted by the smartphone screen. The advice is to be reasonable with the use of smartphones. Give yourself a break from constantly jumping when you hear the beep of a message or a network posting.

Next time you are in a restaurant, just look around you and you will notice people that are eating together will be glancing at their phones and looking for messages, grabbing their phones and replying by sending their texts. Quite rude, try turning off your phone for

the hour that you are spending with friends.

Americans spend an average of 37 minutes daily on social media, a higher time spent than any other major Internet activity, including email. 60% or so of social media time is spent not on desktop computers but on smartphones and tablets. Time that we are away from home and work, which should be our free time. Facebook is a terrific absorber of audiences' time and attention, 114 billion minutes a month in the U.S. alone, on desktop PCs and smartphones. Not sure what are the statistics for China but likely as high or higher since this phenomenon is more recent. Just as China leapfrogged from land phones to cell phones and VHS to DVDs.

How many of us have gotten that excited sensation when our smartphones beep with a text or notification of an email? And perhaps like an involuntary reaction we sometimes reach for our phone to check the new message, even if in the middle of a conversation with a friend. In an informative and thought-provoking account of Dr. Peter Whybrow's work, "Manic Nation", we learn about the fascinating findings of neuroscience which explain our impulsive addiction to modern technology and its impact on our brain and ability to handle stress, thus making

anxiety now the USA's most common psychiatric complaint. By understanding how the chemistry of the human brain functions, there is greater potential for us to control our use of technology rather than have it control us.

A British-born endocrinologist and psychiatrist, Whybrow has been fascinated with applying behavioral neuroscience to social issues. At a time, with the dot-com bubble swelling and the Internet expanding, he saw a dangerously rising tide of growing psychosocial stress and shrinking physiological balance.

"The computer is electronic cocaine for many people," says Whybrow. "Our brains are wired for finding immediate reward. With technology, novelty is the reward. You essentially become addicted to novelty."

We can't stop because the brain has no built-in braking system. With most natural constraints gone, all we've got left is our own intelligence and the internal regulatory system in the frontal cortex, the most recent evolutionary addition to the brain. This "executive brain" regulates impulse control and reasoning. But, Whybrow notes, "despite our superior intelligence, we remain driven by our ancient desires."

Small wonder then that, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, anxiety is now the USA's most common psychiatric complaint, affecting some 40 million people. And the connection between mental stress and obesity has been well documented.

So how does Whybrow himself cope, given the demands of running a huge institution with 400 faculty, a fast-approaching book deadline, and constant speaking engagements?

In his office, during an hour-long interview, there was not a single interruption. No email or text pings. No ringing phones. His computer was closed. His cell phone was turned off, as it usually is. He sometimes works until 9 at night, but he doesn't work at home. On weekends, he checks his email just once a day.

"The idea is not that you don't work hard," Whybrow explains. "You do. But you have to be able to switch it off and create space. I've made a conscious decision to live a life that is not driven by someone else's priority." No matter how good that dopamine feels.

The importance of putting our smartphones aside and being fully present in our in-person interactions to enable connecting at a heart level and in doing so strengthening our empathy muscles in our hearts, literally. When you share a smile or laugh with someone face to face, a discernible synchrony emerges between you, as your

gestures and biochemistries, even your respective neural firings, come to mirror each other.

It's micro-moments like these, in which a wave of good feeling rolls through two brains and bodies at once, that build your capacity to empathize as well as to improve your health. If you don't regularly exercise this capacity, it withers. Lucky for us, connecting with others does feel good. So reach out and touch someone instead of just relying on the chat box or the discover function of the Wei Xin app to keep in touch.

I spoke with several friends about the way our lives have been changed by the smartphone and whether we have become addicted to them. Without exception, everyone confirmed that they could not leave home without it and if they forgot their phone, they would return home or have their partner deliver it. They also acknowledged that they thought it was rude to use the phone for looking at messages or replying to texts while in the company of others. As Craig said: "I will try to turn it off, I just hope I don't miss anything."

No doubt the smartphone is here to stay and has become indispensable. It is unbelievable the number of applications, (commonly called "apps") that are available. As of October 2013, the Apple Apps Store announced that they had downloaded 60 billion apps. They earn 30% of each sale of the app and this represented \$3.86USD billion and this was just Apple; Google and other vendors also have a significant market share. There are over 450,000 different apps available from Apple alone.

With some 450 thousand apps floating around in cyber space waiting, begging, pleading for the next cyber junkie to come and get their fix via them, which apps are most common, most addictive it seems in China and with expats?

It is quite intriguing to see the link between apps and smart phones and smart phones with other devices such as tablet computers, a.k.a. iPad. Apps are not just a world unto themselves; they also drive and dictate the buying of devices.

For example in getting the feedback of Chinese smart phone users, media apps were found to be quite common. Those related to music and video. In China it is no secret that music and videos are free, free and free. Thus QQ音乐 (QQ Music) was the top favorite among local smart phone users. YouTube is a no no here, so you've got other copy cat choices such as YouKu, Sohu, PPTV, Letv, FengHuang Video, Baidu HD, QIYI Video, TengXun Video, and the list continues. These apps make massive amounts of music and

video related content available to smart phone users at the touch of a finger, and again for free.

Now with all that music listening and video watching, you sure don't want to be doing that via a dinky little "farmer phone", that is, a not so smart phone, typically carried by those loyal farmer workers who need nothing more than to make and receive phone calls. Yes, apps are actually a huge factor in smart phone selection. With music en masse, video a plenty, big screens, big batteries, big storage are all on the top of potential smart phone consumers shopping list. Without all that content, without all those apps, smart phones really might not be that smart or interesting. The smart phone and app relationship feels a bit like the old chicken and the egg story. At this point, at a minimum it is a very symbiotic relationship.

While the above media related apps are all free of charge, the content they deliver is all free of charge, the smart phones which complete this circle of life are anything but. Thus you will see Apple being the first on the list with pushing app production and app sales more than anyone else. After all if you don't have any content to consume, or a fancy app to help you consume, do you even need that smart phone after all?

Outside of media apps, what other apps are big in Tianjin China? On the very top of the list currently is WeChat (a.k.a. 微信). Every Chinese smart phone user I've spoken too, and surprisingly, along with many expats, they all have the WeChat app on their phones. WeChat is a classic story of taking the old, repackaging it as new and making the most of a market monopoly.

A quick background, WeChat is brought to market by Tencent, Inc., which was founded in 1998 as stated on their website. They are also responsible for QQ. This is the same QQ Music app noted earlier, hugely popular with Chinese smart phone users and the QQ Video app, and the QQ app itself which can handle email and instant messages. One of the funniest things found was that the English WeChat website has a Twitter link, rife with irony.

The WeChat app has exploded across smart phone users across China for at least two main reasons. One, the Chinese are masters at "save", and there is nothing they want, yearn, need to save more than money. Thus the WeChat instantly became the "no-braining" app for all smart phone users in China. Why?

Put simply, in China cell phone plans aren't cheap. Text messages are often not included in plans, and "unlimited texts" so common overseas are not common here. Texts running at 0.01 RMB/text can add up. When every "penny" counts, the Chinese are quick to eliminate those "text" fees. How? WeChat

makes text based messaging and turns it into "data". Data is also not cheap for cell phone users, however relatively speaking more cost effective than texting all day because the amount of bandwidth it takes to send a text based message via the WeChat app is next to nil. Therefore, "texting" via the WeChat app



trumps "texting" via old school SMS service.

What is the second reason WeChat dominates with China smart phone users? Well, Twitter the somewhat similar but not so similar app is not useable inside of China. Therefore, if you want to do messaging, you simply don't have any other great option, WeChat it is, so you take what you can get. Not being partial at all, simply from a technical/user perspective, WeChat is not impressive. The user interface is clunky, features are very limited and controls do not seem intuitive. Seeing that it is the only choice for data based texting it would be nice to see some serious overhauls and redesign to the WeChat UI.

As to the taking what is old and repackaging it as new, WeChat has done this masterfully. Anyone from the west will recall years ago the tidal wave surge of user migration to Nextel when Nextel was first released. Why? What did Nextel bring to market? Really at the time, Nextel was just like the WeChat of today. Nextel introduced the ability to "walkie talkie" between cell phone users. Instead of a live call where callers would talk back and forth, they would hold down a button and fire over a short audio clip. The other user would listen and then fire off their reply. Ring any bells?

Outside of simple text based messaging via the WeChat app, you will see smart phone users all over the place "walkie talking" back and forth via the WeChat app. The WeChat app first records your audio clip and then sends it off to the other user. They play it back, and repeat the process. So goes the repackaged "walkie talkie" feature of WeChat.

As mentioned earlier in this article, smart phone users tend to be big on "novelty". Be it the latest app, the latest song, the latest show, they want it and they want it now. That's the perceived freshness of it all, the novelty of it all. So it is with the WeChat app's walkie talkie feature, it seems "different", "novel" vs. call the person and talking live, to instead record and send little audio clips back and forth.

Economics, novelty and monopoly aside, hopefully WeChat will pick up the R&D and bring some new and exciting features to market sooner than later. Perhaps even more interesting would be to open the market and let some big players compete head on with WeChat for the mobile app/mobile messaging user.

What else are smart phones being used for and via what apps? Next on the list for discussion is "shopping". Mentioned previously TaoBao is the eBay/Amazon of China. Again, we won't beat a dead horse but the bi-lines of TaoBao vs. eBay/Amazon are very similar to the story of WeChat vs. Twitter and/or others. So

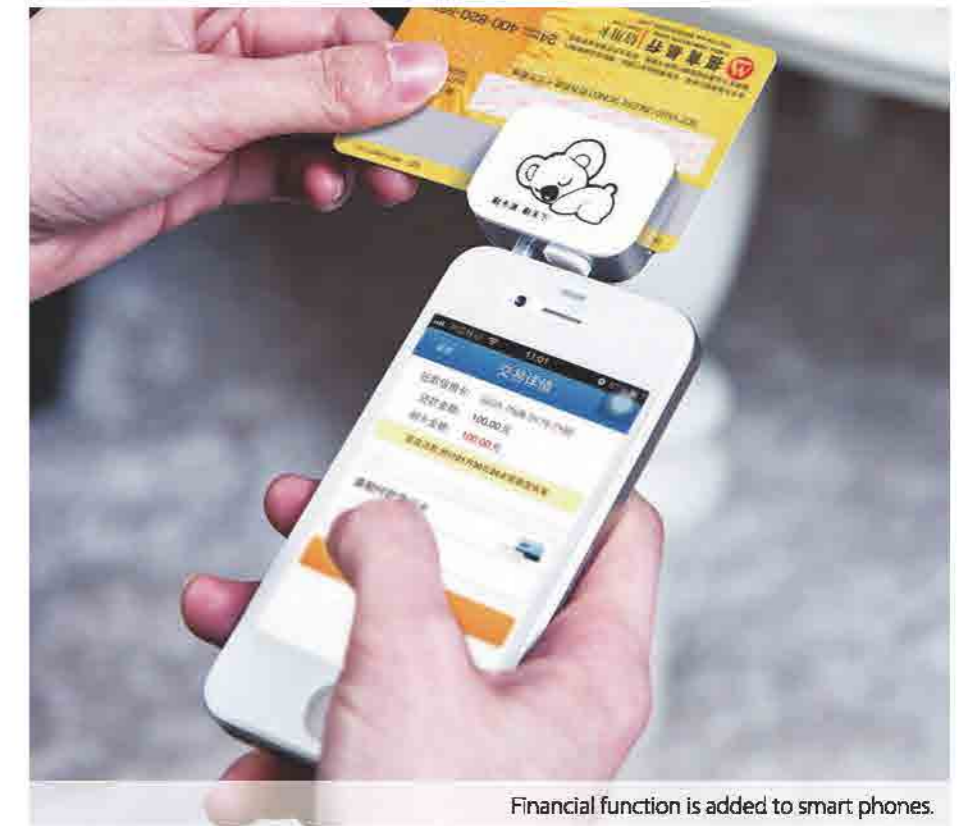
let's move directly to the functionality and effect of the TaoBao app and those related to shopping.

The TaoBao app puts all the shopping mania that is TaoBao at the tips of smart phone users' fingers. In the same category is JingDong (a.k.a. 360buy.com). Both put online shopping of goods on demand for smart phone users. TaoBao looks and feels a lot like eBay, whereas JingDong follows more the path of Amazon. Pretty much all the smart phone users polled had both TaoBao and JingDong apps installed.

Of course online buying leads to online payments. How are smart phone users inside of China paying for all their goods? Download the Alipay (支付宝) app and you'll find out. Alipay is a product of Alibaba Group. It is for all intents and purposes what PayPal is and has been for years overseas. Namely Alipay provides a 3rd party payment processing network to aid in the security of the online buy/sell process intrinsic to the TaoBao buying process. Interestingly, the WeChat app also has the ability to make electronic payments to a number of vendors, some even outside the "online shopping" realm, an example being local participating taxi cabs.

Which brings us to two additional apps found on many a smart phone in Tianjin China, DiDi DaChe and KuaiDi DaChe (嘀嘀打车, 快的打车). These two apps are pretty much one in the same in what they do, help the user get a cab via their smart phone. Providing the ability to both pre-book and on-the-fly call a cab via your smart phone is a reality via either of these apps. Once you get to your destination, if you have linked your banking information, via WeChat for example, you can actually pay for the cab electronically with no cash changing hands. A big win for the consumer as sometimes paying for the cab and getting change from the driver is as painful an experience as getting the cab in the first place.

One caveat to these cab calling apps is the complete dependence they have on "cab driver" participation. The ease of getting a cab using either one of these apps is dependent on local cab drivers also having installed this app on their smart phones and "logging in". Cab drivers in Tianjin are not always "smart phone" users, however, yet again this is where we see apps driving smart phone sales. It seems in more than one case, a cab driver would never have considered a smart phone as "necessary" for themselves, however, as the number of users reserving cab service via these apps has increased rapidly in recent times, cabbies are thinking twice about getting a smart phone and loading these apps, or else, be at risk of losing business.



Financial function is added to smart phones.

It seems as usual with so many other so-called technical advances, "smart phones" are only as smart as the hand which holds it.

Oh smart phones. How smart are you really? Can you call without a caller? Can you chat without the chatter? It seems as usual with so many other so-called technical advances, "smart phones" are only as smart as the hand which holds it. Looking at the proliferation of app this and app that which exist today, smart phones are certainly a major trend. However in the context of what is really important and actually essential to life, as noted earlier all this technology often comes at a price.

What is that price? As the doctors research revealed earlier being "wired", "online", "available" 24 hours a day isn't necessarily "healthy". Humans aren't 7-Elevens, we aren't built for 24 hour service, and don't have

multiple shifts of employees to keep such service fresh, happy, and efficient. At first it might seem being super available is super productive, however... oh wait a minute, my smart phone is ringing right now, hang on, let me go answer that.

And that's how it happens really, an unexpected call, message, email, video, link and you're off. Off from what you were doing and on to doing something else. It seems harmless, but is it? It might seem harmless on the surface, even productive, after all my finishing these last few comments could wait, but that call and the work resulting from it, couldn't. Thus my smart phone saved the day prioritizing a more important, time-sensitive task vs. one that could wait. Isn't that the very essence of what these "smart phones" were supposed to do for us from the beginning?

In conclusion, smart phones are a double edge sword, they can either save your life, as in using the new iMedAlert App to alert an ambulance, or they could kill you, such as texting while driving. Are we smart enough to invent smart phones but not smart enough to use them smartly? A question worth contemplating as the onslaught of apps and smart phones which they run on tempts us daily to indulge, giving in to the "novelty" of instant gratification only to be confronted with the long-term consequences of having done so.

我是个特技演员

一般问起一个外国人的职业，答案通常是外企管理者、工程师或英语老师。但当你遇到Jonny Moore，你会得到一个意外的答案：“我是个特技演员！”

Jonny是天津滨海航母主题公园的特技演员。他给人的第一印象就是充满动感和力量，很像是动作大片里的武打演员，随时准备投入格斗。酒吧里的长凳显然不够舒服，我想他更愿意坐在一辆高速行驶的摩托车上。

Jonny出生在美国南明尼苏达州，那是一个户外运动盛行的地区。“我的家乡和天津一样四季分明，但是我们冬天的降雪量大很多，我从6岁就开始玩动力雪橇了。所有的冬季项目，比如滑冰、滑雪、钻冰钓鱼，我都喜欢。”Jonny说道。

Jonny 9岁的时候，家里的一位老朋友来做客，他在德国做跳水表演。Jonny觉得这个工作很有趣，于是也开始学习跳水并且希望将来有一天也能做这样的工作。

Jonny在印第安纳州从事高空跳水表演的时候接到一个朋友从中国打来的电话。“他在一次表演中膝盖受伤，他问我是不是愿意接替他。于是我在2010年来到天津。一个月以后，我获得了下一年的合同。”

Jonny有很多做同样工作的朋友，分布在全球各地：泰国、日本、上海和澳大利亚。但他很喜欢现在的工作，因为他有机会学习不同的特技。他说：“如果你在环球影城做表演，你一般只演一个角色。但在航母主题公园，你有机会接触以前没玩过过的设备，公司会给你培训。”

Jonny在航母公园的特技团队共有16个人，来自巴西、俄罗斯、乌克兰和澳大利亚。Jonny主要表演一个打斗场面里的高空落水动作。他介绍说：“在这个场景里，我和一个女孩对打，然后他把我从船上的制高点踢到水里。”整个特技表演以动作电影的形式表现出来，有专业的导演和协调员，其中有很多打斗场景。Jonny说他希望未来能参与到电影的拍摄。“只要我能保护好自己不受伤并保持好身材，我相信机会会来的。”

特技演员受伤是家常便饭，但是Jonny却是幸运的，目前还没有过严重的事故。除了自身的身体素质过硬之外，队友之间的默契配合也很重要。“有时候，你是把自己的生命交到队友的手上，所以你们必须互相信任”，Jonny说，“这帮人平常嘻嘻哈哈的，你可能觉得他们一点也不靠谱。但是在工作中，他们都很专业。有时候，他们的处事原则我可能不敢苟同，但我们的共性就是对待这份工作的认真和专业。”

现在，Jonny每周七天都要为新的演出季做准备，主要是格斗、编排和表演方面的训练。整个表演都是围绕这艘航母进行的，有很多紧张刺激的打斗、追逐和爆破场景。在为观众创造感官刺激的同时，Jonny也体会着工作中不同寻常的精彩。

Fight! Drive! Dive!

By Robert Watt

When meeting with a foreigner for the first time, an early question that's normally asked is, what do you do here? The answers are rarely unexpected; most expats are in management some kind of Engineer or teaching. So it's a bit of a surprise when the reply is, I'm a stunt performer.

Of course when you meet Jonny Moore with his piercings and tattoos you suspect he's going to be something a bit different and a stunt performer is about as different as it comes.

Jonny works at Binhai Hangmu, the theme park that is best known for the Russian aircraft carrier that rises out of the sea in the Binhai Tourist area. It provides a dramatic stage and background for the action packed shows he performs in.

And action is a word that springs to mind when you first meet Jonny. Not just from his life stories, there's an aura of enthusiastic energy around him. A feeling that behind his laid back, Mid-American cool, a big dose of adrenaline is waiting to kick in. As he sits talking about his life, you know he finds his bar stool a little too static and he'd prefer a seat with wheels and an engine.

He grew up in Southern Minnesota; a US state where outdoor activities are popular.

"The climate is just like here", he tells me. "But we get feet of snow. I'm a big time snow boarder and I've been

snowmobiling since I was a kid. The first vehicle I ever drove was a snowmobile, when I was 6 years old. I love the wintertime, snowmobiling, 4 wheeling, ice fishing, skating, skiing. But in Minnesota you get all the seasons, so I had the opportunity to do all the sports."

Minnesota has over 10,000 lakes, including the west end of the massive Lake Superior. So it's no surprise that Jonny is as much at home crashing through the waves, as he is sliding about on the ice or mud. It was an old family friend that inspired Jonny to take up diving at 9 years old. "I remember he was in Germany doing dive shows and travelling the world and I thought, I wanna do that one day."

It was when he was working in a show as a high diver in Indiana, that he got a call from a friend in China who had broken his knee diving in a show. "He called me up and asked me if I was interested and gave me a contact number. It turned out to be another friend of mine and I got the job. I came out to Tianjin in September 2010. I did the show for 1 month then it closed down for the winter. But I got an 8



Jonny in a fire scene

month contract for the next year."

Its seasonal work in Tianjin, which means Jonny has the chance for 4 months holiday during the winter. But he's not the type to sit around. "I love what I do so I'll be looking to continue working somewhere else." Last year he went down to Guangzhou where there's a theme park. "I did a lot more land based stuff. My background is water vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, motorcycles, superbikes." He lists a couple of other dangerous toys that he's never heard of before summing it up "I can basically drive anything with a motor. I've always been into motor sports and basically anything that's fast and you can do crazy things on."

The world of stunt performing is a close community and Jonny knows guys that have shows going on in Thailand, Japan, Shanghai and Australia. But he is loving China and the job in Tianjin. "The great thing about this company, he tells me, is we have the opportunity to learn everything and anything we want. At the big companies like universal you're hired for one role and you only do that, then it's finished. But if you've never driven something before, this company will train you.

The Binhai Hangmu show is predominantly water-based stunts on and around the aircraft carrier. He is working as part of a team with 16 other performers. The stunt team is made up of people from all over the world, Brazil, Russia, Ukraine and Australia and there also is a group of Russian dancers too.

The high diving he does in the show is part of a fight scene. "I'm getting beat up by a girl", he explains. "And she kicks me off the top of the ship. The girls are the main characters and they're all evil bad asses." The show is as much a live action movie as a sport, complete with professional directors and stunt co-ordinators. "There's a lot of acting" says Jonny. "A lot of the people I work for have majored in acting, theatre and dance and all that kind of stuff." His goal for the future is to do

Of course he's part of a team, which means his life is often in other peoples hands and it's important that he can rely on them.

some stunt double acting and get into the movies. "I've got the connections," he says. "But right now, I'm trying my best and stay out here as long as possible. As long as I can keep myself healthy, in shape and not hurt myself."

He got the job because his friend broke his leg working. Injury is common in this profession and a serious injury could mean an end to his career. He tells me about one of the older guys who's been with the company for 18 years. "He's one of the best actors, but he's been injured a lot, half his body is metal plates. When we did our physicals and the doctors saw his x-rays, they were like, is he for real?"

So far he's been lucky, "I've not really been hurt doing the job, all my accidents were when I was a kid. I was always climbing trees and tree jumping. I have a lot of body strength, which



Jonny is driving a water scooter

helps. I've always had a good build because of being a diver."

Of course he's part of a team, which means his life is often in other peoples hands and it's important that he can rely on them. He tells me about his colleagues "They're mainly guys, a group of actors and adrenaline junkies laughing all the time and having a good time messing with each other. There's a lot of pranks, we're going to be children forever just having a good time." They don't sound like a group of people you'd want to trust your life with but he explains. "A lot of people might have their issues but when we're at work we're all professional about it. It's such a big team there's always going to be some head-butting. You might not agree with the way some people do things, but when it comes down to actual show stuff it's pretty serious, so they all stay professional."

Jonny's standing up now. He finds sitting up straight for long periods gets uncomfortable because he has spent so long crouched over a gas tank. But I wonder if it's just as much an issue of being inactive. He is working 7 days a week rehearsing for the show. "Right now, he says "I'm doing a lot of fight training, fight choreography, stage fighting and stage acting. It's mostly fighting and gun safety training. Although we use fake guns we have to handle them like real guns. So you learn all about the gun in the same way as if you were in a gun safety class back in the states."

As well as fighting and high speed stunts in and around the water, the show also uses a lot of pyrotechnics that simulate gun fire, shell bursts and other loud and spectacular explosions. Within the imposing setting of the Russian aircraft carrier the show recreates an exhilarating depiction of the shock and awe of a conflict without any of the commensurate risks - at least for the audience. For the stunt performers like Jonny, the danger is part of the thrill of his unusual job and his extraordinary life.

要不要买车？这是个问题！

作为在天津生活的外国人，出行工具无非就是这几样：走路、自行车、电动车、出租车、公交地铁或自己开车。当然，没有哪种方式是完美的。我们这次就来说说外国人买车这件事。

天津已经开始学习北京老大哥，实施一系列限行限号措施。外国人也要和本地人一样参与车牌摇号。摇不到车牌是没有资格买车的。

即使你足够幸运摇到了车牌，你必须在六个月内买车上牌，否则两年之内都不可以再申请牌照。

如果你认为这都不算挑战，作为外国人，你必须准备一堆证明材料，并且要在天津住满至少两年，还要有中国驾照。

好，如果这一关你也过了，那我们来算一笔账吧。首先我们考虑的并不是购车费用，而是开车的风险。

提到事故，我们首先想到的通常是机动车之间的事故。但在天津，交通事故通常发生在机非之间。行人、自行车、电动车和三轮车往往是道路上最大的安全隐患。中国的法律通常保护的是“弱者”。和公交车相比，小轿车是弱者；和小轿车相比，自行车是弱者。如果机动车和自行车相撞，机动车肯定要承担赔偿责任的。

外国人发生交通事故的几率肯定不会低，一方面他们对中国的交规不熟悉，另一方面行人和非机动车一般也不会遵守交规。一旦发生事故，就算你中文再好，你也肯定在理论中处于劣势。警察和围观“法官”们肯定不会站在外国人这一边。

另外，你还要注意限行的问题。每周有一天你是不能开车上路的，如果你忘了限行这件事，等待你的就是一张罚单。

现在咱们可以说说钱的事了。同一款车在中国的售价通常比海外要高。除此之外，养车也是不小的开销。每年的保险最少要1000左右，如果你想上全险可能要花好几千。每月油费也要好几百元。其实最大的花销还是在停车和罚单上。

现在的停车位非常紧张，好不容易找到一个车位，最便宜的停车费也要每小时4块，但大部分区域都要比这个价格高。好，你可以嫌贵不停在收费停车场，随便停在马路边。但只要被你被警察逮到，二百块钱就打水漂了。

交通违章也是很难以避免的。中国的交规和我们本国的不同，有时我们在无意识的情况下就会违章。很多违章都会在你的驾照上记分，记满12分就要到驾校回炉学习了。

看完上面的内容，你会不会觉得“要不要买车”是个很弱智的问题？在本地市场，购车需求依然坚挺。但一系列限制措施就像是火热的市场泼了一盆冷水。汽车销售商的日子自然不好过。作为一个老外，除汽车之外的那些交通工具其实也不错！

To Buy or Not to Buy a Car in Tianjin?

by Carmen King



Heavy traffic at rush hours

As an expat living in Tianjin, transport is one of the biggest challenges. Be it foot, bike, moped, taxi, bus, subway, or car, no option is a perfect solution in itself. However as it relates to that last one, "car", we ask the question, is it a good business decision to buy a car in Tianjin as an expat?

The first issue related to buying a car, is that Tianjin has grown up, adopting the same system as the big brother next door Beijing, the days of "buying cars at whim" are gone. Expats and locals alike need to participate in a "lottery". This lottery isn't about buying a ticket and hoping you win a car, rather you need to register with the government authorized agency managing the assignment of new license plate numbers in Tianjin and hope you get randomly selected, thus giving you "qualifications" to register a car in Tianjin.

Hard as this might be for expats to believe you can't just buy a car when and where you want, it is the reality of life in Tianjin. In addition,

The car is bigger and badder than the bicycle so you will be paying for the rider of that bicycle to see the doctor.

be aware that should you be one of the fortunate few to get selected to register a new license plate in Tianjin, you must do so within 6 months of being authorized or else suffer the penalty of not being able to re-register for the license lottery again for at least two years!

If being randomly selected wasn't challenging enough, there are qualifications to even participate in the lottery! What are they? For expats lottery requirements include having a valid form of identification and having lived in Tianjin for at least 2 or more continuous years. You also need a valid Chinese driver's license.

Let's just say you meet the above requirements. Before you run off and start playing the license plate lottery, take a minute to count the costs and consider if you even want to apply. After all owning and operating a motorized vehicle in Tianjin is quite different than overseas.

Topping the list of things expats should consider when contemplating "to buy or not to buy a car" are the related risks. Many risks abound for expats owning a car in Tianjin. One such is automobile accidents. Normally, when driving



You got a fine ticket!

we would be worried about getting in an accident with another motorized vehicle, in Tianjin, that is not your biggest fear, instead you should be worried about having an altercation with a pedestrian or non-licensed motorized vehicle. Pedestrians, cyclists, mopeds and even three-wheel carts are huge hazards as it relates to road safety. The last though, three-wheel carts will become far less starting on May 1st as Tianjin has banned them from taking to the road.

Why should expats considering buying a car be so worried about other non-motorized movers and shakers? Look no further than the law. The current Chinese law protects the "weak". The "weak" are those perceived to be "relatively" weaker in relation to the other party. Example, a bus and car collides. The bus is a fault because he is bigger and than for "stronger" than the car. Another scenario, a car hits a cyclist, sorry car you lose, not in physical pain but in legal liability. The car is bigger and badder than the bicycle so you will be paying for the rider of that bicycle to see the doctor.

The above are real concerns for expats as the chances of being involved in a traffic accident are certainly not low. Not only because as an expat you will be unfamiliar with the rules of the Tianjin roads, but also due to the fact that the many walkers, bikers, riders, do not follow those road rules. This means many sudden, unexpected, unpredictable incidents could very easily occur. Add on top of this the fact that no matter how good your Chinese is you will be at a linguistic disadvantage when dealing with any road side disputes. When accidents occur, the police and "onsite" judge, jury, and executioner will dictate who is at fault, with the odds of who's guilty vs. innocent not being in expats favor at all, for more reasons than one.



The sign says: "The parking lot is full!"

including not only the other persons car but also your own, than insurance fees will quickly rise to several thousand RMB per year. Basic maintenance, such as oil charges will cost you four hundred or so RMB monthly. You also will incur an annual tax of several hundred RMB. Not to mention one the biggest costs of owning a car in Tianjin, parking fees and tickets.

Parking fees are not cheap, and the alternative is even worse. First, finding a parking space is not always easy, even if you are willing to pay. Second, rates are not cheap with some of the cheapest parking being 4 RMB per hour, but there aren't many around at this rate. Third, if you think you will be cool and go commando parking where and whenever you want, than be ready for parking tickets and these are 200 RMB per pop.

Parking fees aside you still have the real and ever present danger of traffic violations. This is a huge issue for all Tianjin drivers, especially expats. Traffic laws are different here, it is all too easy to unwittingly violate a regulation, with such you've got the gift of a fine and points on your license. If you hit 12 points within a year, back to driving school for you, or risk losing your license.

In conclusion, Tianjin expats, how do you answer the question "to buy or not to buy a car"? Based on the above analysis perhaps you will find yourself rethinking what originally may have seemed such a "no-brainer" question. The car business is booming in Tianjin, as still, the demand far outweighs the supply, however the new restrictions on new car registrations has put a huge kink in this fire hose. How the countless car dealerships around Tianjin will deal with this recent policy change is yet to be seen. As expats in Tianjin, after counting the costs related to buying a car, maybe, just maybe the walking, cycling, busing, cabbage life isn't so bad after all.

小心供应商的偷工减料!

为什么美好的事物总要有结束?今天我们不谈论感情。我们来说说和厂商、供应商之间的那些事。通过我在中国生活的这段时间,我接触到许多行业和部门的供应商,但令我困扰的是,为什么在一段时间后,我们的关系会变质?别误会,我不是想让关系变得恶化,当然也不会因为关系破裂就中止合作。但事情就是变得有那么一点微妙,而我也只是想知道,这究竟是怎么回事。

讲一个我过去工作的经历,那是一个生产先进发电机的跨国公司。有一天工作结束后,我拿着存档文件去找供应商记录。

我想再看一遍那些和我们的关系有所破裂的供应商的报告。我将这些资料按年代排序,然后从最初的合作日期开始,跟踪业务关系的发展,直到最新的状况。

有些供应商出现了,又消失;有些与我们合作的供货数量时多时少;一些与我们中止合作关系的,过了一段时间后又继续来往。一切细节都有记录,从“今天的午餐不好”、“他们接机晚了”到看似很重要的标注,比如“我认为产品在每个容器的数量正逐渐减少!”“他们原料仓库的味道和平时不一样。”

慢慢地我发现一个趋势,这个危险的趋势让我决定在接下来的几周重新浏览所有一切供应商的手写报告。这个问题看起来非常普遍,让我感觉这已经成为业内惯例。而而言之,我发现了严重的“质量渐变”现象。

“质量渐变”是当你收到一件质量有细微残缺的产品时,你并没有注意到。下一次,供应商又会在质量上做一次手脚。就是这样神不知鬼不觉的偷工减料会让你渐渐觉得这就是正常的规格。事实上,没有机器检测的帮助,人们是很难察觉这种微妙变化的。

当然,不是所有的商品都会发生这样的问题,供应商知道如果他们在主要组件上动了手脚,他们就会有麻烦。他们所做的,是善于发现那些不经常被人检测的组件,因为人们认为那些组件都是正常市场水平上标准化的产品。像螺栓、螺母和其他一些小部件都是构成产品质量和产品质量安全至关重要的部分,而这么重要的产品却多年来未被重新检测过,只因为它们看起来都一样。

当我看着这些报告,我大概能知道发生了什么。每当要搞小动作,他们就会使用各种手段来讨好审计团的人。招待他们住越来越好的酒店、使用更加舒适的交通工具。供应商就是这样,通过给审计团的人提供更好的服务来打消他们怀疑的念头。

实际上,在团队成员感觉到超规格招待的同时,报告上出现这样的记录:在某个时期向供应商购买了一批设备后不久,在生产线上出现了小问题。供应商似乎最大程度的减小了零件的尺寸,已经到了不可用的地步。某些零件的安全系数高,供应商降低质量标准不会有人发现,因为在正常条件下,这样的产品不会失灵。但是你必须要知道,在严重或紧急情况下,次品肯定会导致灾难性的事故。

有的变化也是很明显的。比如某种保护漆质量应该是每大桶200kg。产品描述却是200kg+/-10kg以适应包装过程中出现的正常变化。在SAP系统显示下,我们能看到,在过去两年每桶的平均重量已经从200.01减少到190.035!我所收到的产品竟然减少了将近5%的分量,而我却还支付着同样的价格。

在另一个案例中,供应商更聪明。他通过减少制作钢筋的金属来改变钢筋的重量。钢筋原本的抗压能力应是实际使用压力的130%。然而,每天正常情况下实际的压力需求只有100%,因此供应商知道他们只需提供100%而非130%的强度要求的钢筋就可以。而我们也只有在风暴或者地震中才会注意到这些,因为很少有人会定期测试产品。

我突然发现,我们的质量部也陷入了质量渐变中。公司会从头五份送检的样品中随机测试样本。久而久之,对于质量部门来讲,测试就变成了一个可自由支配的过程。当他们觉得产品的质量出现下滑时,他们应该马上重新测试。但是他们没有这样做,否则供应商也不会有投机取巧的机会。看来,即使是一个跨国公司,也同样受到了质量渐变的威胁。

作为我来讲,我只能列一份能带来影响产品安全和性能的所有组件列表并发送给售后部,让他们去联系那些买了带有安全隐患组件产品的顾客,且配合我们顾客的维修团队,制定一套修补方案以符合我们最初的规范。

对于那些出现质量渐变的供应商,采购部会有一份明确的清单。供应商们要么提供我们符合要求的产品,要么直接放弃未来的合作。而替换零件的成本,理应算在供应商的成本里,或许我们可以考虑通过法律途径来维护我们的利益。

Down the Drain!

Why does everything beautiful come to an end? And I'm not talking about love here! I'm talking about good relationships with manufacturers and suppliers. Through my time in China I've come in contact with many suppliers in several sectors and industries and it has always troubled me why our relationship turns sour after sometime. Don't get me wrong,

I don't break ties and stop cooperating with suppliers just because our relationship has deteriorated, but everything just becomes a little less special. I just wanted to find out why!

It was during one of my previous positions at an MNC producing advanced electric generators when one day after working hours I got document holders out of the archive and



found my way to supplier records. We do of course have digital records that record official relationship status, standing orders, payment bills and so on, but that was not what I am looking for. I was looking for the actual handwritten reports submitted by supplier audit teams after they return from visiting suppliers. These reports are actually filled during the visit so they reflect the true nature of the meeting just like it happened.

I decided to review reports from those suppliers who I feel disruption in our relationship with. I organized them chronologically and started from older dates so I can trace the progression of the business relationship as it started up to present day. Some of these reports dated back to before my time at the company and were actually new to me. I have to confess that I have never done this before. I was always more interested in quantifying our relationship with the suppliers and making money of buying their components then selling my products rather than qualifying our relationship in terms of what is actually going on between our respective teams and how the two company managers actually feel toward each other.

I pulled up my sleeves and got myself a large cup of coffee as I estimated that this will need up to four hours of reading and set on my journey into the past of my supply chain. I've seen suppliers appear and disappear. Others delivered more then less then more product again. Some stopped working with us for a while then re-started the business relationship again. There was even one supplier where a member of our company married a team member from their company! It was all there, down to the smallest detail written in short comments that sometimes seemed less important now such as "lunch was bad today" and "they were late to pick us up at the airport" to remarks that seemed

to be very important indeed such as "I think the amount of product in each container is decreasing gradually" and "their raw material warehouse smelled different than usual. I think chemical storage has failed and the material has expired due to bad storage." and even remarks like "I believe our supplier and THEIR supplier are conspiring against us to produce a product that does-not meet our specification requirements."

As I kept on reading and pressed on into my third hour of reading I started to see a trend here. It was a dangerous trend that made me decide to review ALL supplier handwritten reports during the following week. This issue seemed so rampant that I began thinking it is the norm. It was as simple as a gradual reduction of what I am getting out of this relationship as opposed to what I am putting in. Just like marriage, when one partner starts neglecting

It was as simple as a gradual reduction of what I am getting out of this relationship as opposed to what I am putting in.

their duties the relationship starts to disintegrate and cease to function correctly. In short, what I was reading had all the symptoms of quality fade!

Quality fade is when you receive a product just a little worse that you won't notice after a while and once you miss the slight degradation and reduction in quality, the supplier makes one more slight reduction so that these degradations always go unnoticed because operators become accustomed to the current reduced quality product that the slight reduction is not noticeable and once the next reduction is made, they start feeling that this is the new norm. In fact, they don't feel anything new about it as the changes are so minute that they are nearly impossible to detect without machine aid.

Of course this doesn't happen for all products, suppliers understand that if they do this for major components that are tested using state-of-the-art machinery at random, they would be in trouble. What they did was pure genius in looking for components that nobody tested regularly because they are assumed to be

standardized at normal market level. We're talking bolts and nuts and other minor components that can be critical to the product's quality and even safety but have not been re-tested for years because they just seem to be the same.

When I looked at the personal reports, they turned out to give an idea of what happened. You can actually read the tone of the suppliers team becoming more worried when they are making a change and they seem to be paying too much attention to pleasing the audit teams by any means possible. From better hotels to better cars and everything in between. The suppliers just want to pass inspections when they know something is wrong so they try to make the audit team feel much better than at normal times.

In fact on team member seemed to feel too welcome at one time and records show that the batch of fixtures bought from that supplier at this particular time later caused a slight problem at the production line. It seemed the supplier had made the maximum cuts to the component before reaching the usable limit. This was different from product to product and component to component.

Some parts had a high safety factor and so the supplier had a large margin of profit to add if they decrease the quality standard of the part without anyone noticing because the product would not fail under normal conditions. Under severe or emergency conditions on the other hand, a degraded product would surely fail and cause disastrous consequences.

Some changes seem to just be rude as well. For example a certain high value protective paint that should be sprayed on metallic surfaces for protection came in large drums of 200 KG each. The actual product description described the product as 200 KG +/- 10 KG to accommodate normal changes in packaging processes. Going through the SAP system for this particular paint revealed that the average weight for drums through the past two years has decreased from 200.01 to 190.035! This is nearly a 5% reduction in the amount of product I am receiving and yet I am paying the same prices because legally the product is intact but the supplier has discovered a way of making 5% more money on the material without doing anything illegal by exploiting the range we created to make things easier for suppliers through the packaging process. I am sure that the purchasing department made the 190 to 210 range expecting to receive some 195 drums and some 205 drums as well!

In another case a supplier was smart about changing the weight of straight high strength metallic bars by decreasing the amount of metal actually going into the bars. In that case the bars were supposed to resist tension of 130% of the actual usage because they were critical to holding the product together in cases of excessive heat, wind or other severe environmental situations. However, the actual everyday normal situation tension requirement was only 100% so the supplier knew they can provide bars that deliver 100% and not 130% of strength requirement and we would only notice in case of a storm or earthquake or in case someone actually cared enough to test the product regularly and not only during the first several batches.

That brought me to a very important point. I suddenly discovered that our own quality department has been falling into quality fade as well. It was normal company procedure to test random samples from all components during the first five delivered batches. Afterwards testing becomes a discretionary process for the quality department and regulated by certain policies. It was up to them to retest products from time to time if they feel that the product's quality might be slipping. But they were not doing so, and had they been performing that task regularly, suppliers would not have had the chance to gradually reduce the quality of their shipments as such. It seems that even an MNC had been stung by the menace of quality fade.

Of course on my side, I made a list of all the components that might actually affect safety and/or performance of the final product and sent it via email to the after-sales team asking them to contact our clients who have bought machines that included those components and initiate in coordination with their maintenance teams a quick action plan focused on replacing them with new parts that conformed to our original specifications.

As for the suppliers who were guilty of quality fade, a list of them was made for the purchasing department so they can be confronted to either provide their products at an acceptable level or all future purchases would be directed towards their competitors. It also seemed normal that those replacement parts that affected safety and performance should be replaced at the supplier's cost or legal action would be the choice.

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

面向青年创业者的一次演讲

Marwan Faddoul先生是NFG咨询公司管理合伙人，因为在帮助中国企业进行海外扩张上有着丰富的经验，他被邀请来为想要创业的年轻人们做一场演讲，目的在于提高所有参与者的商业技能。

Faddoul先生的演讲中，关于维持一个成功的事业，他提到了三个关键点。这些点包括：入境活动—外国公司在中国投资的讨论；对外活动—中国企业想要在中国以外的地方投资以及中外双方在彼此合作过程中会出现的困难和挑战。

Faddoul认为，过去几十年里，随着中国面向的外籍投资者市场不断扩大和发展，在中国的入境活动不断增加，我们可以看到，外国投资者不仅在中国生产商品，而且将中国定为目标市场，他们通过这里的基础设施来销售产品以及服务，提高国内生产总值。

尽管中国有着巨大的内部市场环境，但是中国的企业还是愿意把目光集中在对外活动上，80%的中国

投资者选择将业务扩展到非洲和中东地区。做出这样的选择，是因为相对于美国和西欧国家，发展中国家可以给中国企业带来更多的销售机会和竞争。

Faddoul还讲到，为了提高产品质量和品牌知名度，中国制造商通常会合并或收购外国企业。例如，过去一年，中国企业参与了200多个并购项目，同比前年增长了5%，收入总计达515亿美元。而出于安全因素的考虑和获得更好的生活方式和教育，许多中国富人以在发达国家投资来获取居住资格和外国护照。

最后，中国公司和外国公司，每天和彼此做着生意却总是要面对相同的挑战。例如，文化差异、语言障碍和薄弱的管理知识都导致了中国投资者在没有进行任何初步计划或研究的情况下就决定在哪里合并或收购外国的公司。认清这个问题并按程序工作是非常重要的事情，因为如果这个步骤没有做好，整个公司面临失败的可能性就会上升。



Marwan Faddoul

A Speech of Entrepreneurship for Young Professionals

from Young Professional Tianjin

“Over the past decade Foreign Direct Investment into China as well as Chinese investment into foreign markets has increased rapidly. Many of these investments have been successful, while others have led to massive failures. Of course, the question is: Why? What can you learn from this for your businesses?” As he looks at each member of his audience, Mr. Marwan Faddoul has certainly captured their interest as he begins his lecture to the Young Professionals of Tianjin. Designed to boost the business skills of participants, Mr. Faddoul an expert in corporate strategy and a managing partner at NFG Consulting, was invited to speak because of his extensive experience in helping Chinese companies expand overseas.

During the lecture Mr. Faddoul focused on three key areas crucial for maintaining a successful business. These areas included Inbound Activities - a discussion of foreign companies investing in China; Outbound

Activities - Chinese businesses that want to invest outside of China and the challenges that foreign and Chinese firms face in doing business with each other. The message is clear for individuals interested in conducting business in this great nation - they must be well versed in not only business but also Chinese culture.

Over the past decades the People's Republic of China (PRC) has seen many Inbound Activities as the market for foreign investors has been continuously expanding and evolving. During the 1980's and 1990's, foreign companies began to invest in China in order to capitalize on low labor costs and to conduct business under the welcoming policies of the PRC. Today however, as policies change so has the way business is conducted. This has seen foreign investors not only manufacture their products in the PRC but also to target it as a marketable region where they can sell their products and services using its Infrastructure and Increase the overall GDP.

Furthermore, despite a large domestic market, Chinese entrepreneurs are focusing on Outbound Activities which aim to take their business outside of China with more than 80% preferring to expand into Africa and the Middle East. One of the reasons for this choice is that the current portfolio of Chinese products allows Chinese companies more opportunities to sell and compete in developing countries than in the United

States and Western Europe.

In order improve product quality and brand names, Chinese manufacturers are either merging with or acquiring foreign companies. For example, over the past year Chinese enterprises were involved in more than 200 merger and acquisition projects, which is a 5% increase from the previous year and netted a total of \$51.5 billion in revenue. For reasons of security and to have access to a better lifestyle and education, many wealthy Chinese invest in developed countries in order to gain residency permits and, eventually, a foreign passport. An example of this is seen in Portugal where since 2012, the Portuguese government has issued 734 so-called "Golden Visas" generating more than 440 Million Euros in profit which is funneled back into the economic infrastructure. The vast majority of the people signing up, that is 578, are mainland Chinese.

Lastly, both Chinese and foreign companies face similar challenges in conducting business with each other on a daily basis. For example, cultural differences, language barriers and weak knowledge of management have led to decisions where Chinese investors merge with or acquire foreign firms without conducting any preliminary plans or studies. It is important to recognize these issues and work alongside them, for when this is not done the probability of a company failing is increased.

Overall, the lecture presented to the Young Professionals of Tianjin by Mr. Faddoul was extremely Informative. By discussing the problems that both foreign and Chinese investors face every day when conducting business in China, YPT members were able to gain a better insight into how the Chinese conduct business with foreigners and foreigners with Chinese. Mr. Faddoul is an excellent example of what is required from foreign nationals in order to succeed in business in this great nation of China.



Marwan in the lecture

AmCham China, Tianjin and BT Eagle Group Thirteenth Annual Charity Golf Tournament

10:00AM – 8:00PM, Saturday, May 24th
Tianjin Eco-city International Country Club



Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a round of golf and make a difference in children's lives. All proceeds will be donated to Jianhua Tianjin Special Education Program to support disabled children.

Entry Fee: RMB 1100 *

* The fee includes greens fee, facilities and caddies, registration pack, lunch on the course, all day cold beverages, awards banquet, return transportation and lucky draw.

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For more information on purchasing tickets or sponsorship, please call the AmCham China, Tianjin office at 022-23185072, or send an e-mail to amandahe@amchamchina.org. Contact person: Amanda He





European Chamber
中国欧盟商会

EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

PwC Tax Seminar: 2013 Annual Corporate Income Tax Filing Key Points Update 27 March, 2014

In cooperation with German Chamber of Commerce, the European Chamber Tianjin Chapter organized an informative and practical breakfast briefing on 27 March in Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe. Jacky Chu, Partner of International Assignment Service PwC, shared his knowledge and thought on the following issues, he also answered the specific questions members met.



Training course: Microsoft Office 28 March, 2014

According to the data provided by an authoritative institution, only 20% of Office application functionality was used by a common end user. However, 25% productivity will be improved by execute an application skill training effectively, which equals to nearly 2000% rate of return on Investment. The purpose of this training program is to save hours of your work and increase your organization productivity with instant results. Even the brightest Office users often have skill gaps that prevent them from effectively using the full potential of the tools readily available to them. This full day courses of Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point are designed to target those skill gaps and help intermediate to advanced Office users take the next step in their learning.

InterChamber Breakfast Briefing: Risk Management and Business Insurance 11 April, 2014

In cooperation with German Chamber of Commerce the European Chamber Tianjin Chapter organized a breakfast briefing on 11 April, 2014 in Ritz-Carlton Tianjin. Risk exists everywhere, it can come from uncertainty in financial markets, threats from project failures, legal liabilities, credit risk, accidents, and natural disasters. We have to understand risks and know how to minimize them. In this Breakfast Seminar, Mr. Thomas Hai, supervisor of the business development division of AioiNissay Dowa Insurance (China) Co., Ltd., provided information on risk management and business insurance and explains what the potential risks are and how to protect your business.



The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin Chapter
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Past Events

Day of Logistics 2014: Visit of E-Commerce Logistics Park in Wuqing
Thursday, April 10, 2014

On the "Day of Logistics", more than 400 events take place worldwide in cooperation with companies, institutes and universities. In its 7th year, the Day of Logistics was organized on April 10, 2014.

The German Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the BVL, the German Logistics Association, took its members to visit the warehouse logistics site of the Beijing Jiuxian E-Commerce Co., Ltd. in the E-Commerce Logistics Park in Wuqing. Jiuxianwang is China's largest integrated online alcohol retailer and offered German Chamber members a deep insight into the wide variety of logistic activities of an online retailer.



Interchamber Breakfast Seminar: Risk Management and Business Insurance
Friday, April 11, 2014



To avoid financial problems, businesses need to prepare themselves to be protected from various risks such as uncertainties on financial markets, threats from project failures, legal liabilities, credit risks, accidents or natural disasters. The German Chamber, in cooperation with the European Chamber, invited Mr. Thomas Hai, supervisor of the business development division of Alol Nissay Dowa Insurance (China) Co., Ltd. to explain the potential business risks for companies and how to protect their businesses against these risks.

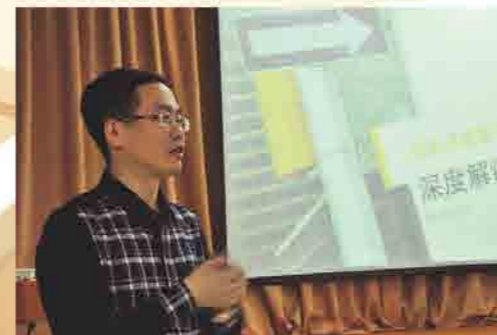
GM Roundtable – Sales and Marketing in China
Monday, April 14, 2014

The German Chamber's GM Roundtable is an event that aims to serve as a platform for General Manager to come together, openly discuss current issues and share experiences. This GM Roundtable focused on sales and marketing strategies in China and discussed the management and development of sales personnel, current challenges for German companies and Sino-German differences in this sector.



More upcoming Events

- May 6, 2014: Seminar – Importing to China, German Chamber Tianjin Office
- May 17, 2014: German Night in Tianjin, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus Tianjin
- May 20, 2014: Biz Socializer – InterChamber Business Networking, Hotel Nikko Tianjin
- May 28, 2014: Kammerstammtisch Tianjin, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus Tianjin



February 2014, HRCLUB was successfully held the seminar about regulations of labor dispatch. Yongge Xu lawyer has interpreted regulations of labor dispatch in depth and given some relevant legal advice and suggestions for HR managers.

Since the year of 2012, HRClub officially introduced its certified course of 【Training Camp—HR Practice】, with the purpose to discover, foster talents and self-promotion. HR managers are keen to participate and feel very meaningful. March 2014, the graduation ceremony of Training Camp was very successfully held. HR CLUB will continue to organize this course, so welcome every HR colleague to take part in and contact us.

The Third China (Tianjin) Human Resource Services Exhibition in 2014

The exhibition started since 2012, which brought together many outstanding Chinese and foreign enterprises by many ways to find suitable partners on both sides. This exhibition obtained a lot of support and recognition for well-known enterprises and senior HR managers. HR CLUB hopes everyone continue to pay attention and give support. Welcome to attend and contact us!

Date: May 9, 2014
Conference Location: WanDa Vista Tianjin
(Da Zhi Gu Ba Hao road, No 486, He Dong District, Tianjin (China).)



Webin: [tianjin-hrclub](http://tianjin-hrclub.com)

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NESTLES

Social Media in the Classroom

by Ashton Weis



There's no way to keep youngsters from their phones

手机应该怎么办?

我在大学当老师，我的学生们每天用手机上网，就连上课都带着手机。有人可能会问，为什么不禁止他们上课带手机？有两个原因：一是根本制止不了！他们都在偷偷地用，我不能把课上的宝贵时间都用来没收手机。其次，他们的手机都有词典功能，在我们沟通不畅的时候，还需要借助这一工具。

我的学生们使用最多的就是qq、微信和微博。他们每天都花大把时间使用这些社交媒体。他们无法放弃，因为他们已经用了好多年，形成习惯了。QQ在1999年就诞生了。除了最初的聊天功能，通过QQ，用户还可以购物、收发邮件、发微博等等。

开发QQ的腾讯公司现在最强大的产品就是微信了。它可以实现文字、语音信息、视频聊天和即时语音对话。很多外国人也喜欢使用微信。

但是很多学生并不了解哪些属于社交媒体。所以，他们经常在公共平台上说错话，比如在微博上说某位老师的坏话，这是件很危险的事！

我和学生们讲过，你们在社交媒体上的发言是所有人都能看得到的，而电子邮件这样定向发送的平台不算社交媒体。但他们好像还是一知半解。

学生们明显没有充分利用手机app，他们只会聊天。他们应该知道，这些APP的功能远不止这些。他们应该让这些网络工具变成营销自己的工具，真正发挥它们的优势。

在这样一个时代，中国的家长和老师非常担心孩子们会对手机和网络上瘾。但是这些新的网络媒体平台确实给了年轻人一个宣泄自己，表达自己的窗口。

强大的网络让学生们可以和世界各地的朋友联通。不仅是学生，我的同事和其他朋友也在用微信。可能在未来几年，微信会成为世界上使用人数最多的社交软件了。

As a university professor, many of my students are tapped into all the Internet has to offer, especially on their phones. Almost all of them have their phones out in every class. Why do I allow their phones in class, do you ask? For two reasons: the first is that it's almost impossible to disallow them. They are hard to see, and I'm not going to spend precious minutes of class time everyday to take away their phones.

The second reason is that their phones have online dictionaries on them that translate words. This is useful for both them and me. As a non-Chinese speaker, sometimes we need to use the translators to understand and help one another.

Amongst the numerous games and other activities that smart phones are equipped with, the apps that my students are using most often are social media and messaging combination applications, like QQ and WeChat (Weixin), along with others like Weibo and Micro Blogging, etcetera.

They spend a large amount of everyday communicating using these two messaging giants. QQ is the most popular amongst my Chinese students.

"It's just easy, because I've using it for so long," said one young man in my freshman English class.

If they post something to their "feeds," it can be seen by anyone they are contacts with.

"I'm very comfortable with it," said another sophomore girl. QQ was released in 1999 and has gained popularity since then. It allows my students to shop, help each other with their homework, email one another, chat and post things to a feed, along with many other abilities.

Even a middle school student I met earlier this year had a QQ email account, and she eagerly wanted me to join the service.

Everything they do on their phones can be run and connected through QQ. The company that owns it, Tencent, is the fifth largest tech company in the world. It follows Google, Amazon, Ebay and Facebook. As of March 2013, QQ had 798.2 million active accounts.

Tencent also owns WeChat. This app, which allows international chatting via smartphone either in text, voice calling, voice messaging, video chatting or walkie-talkie form, is more popular amongst foreigners.

This app, released in 2011, is quite a bit newer than QQ. It serves the necessity of being able to communicate long distance via an application. It is similar to Viber and WhatsApp. Most of my students are also active with WeChat as well as QQ. But for foreigners, one or the other is almost a necessity in China.

"If you want to fully integrate in China, QQ or WeChat is necessary, but WeChat is better," said a Moroccan friend of mine, "You can use it to do everything." Meaning, you can use it to message other people on the service in any form you want to. It would seem that the younger generation is fully connected using their smartphones. But, many of them don't fully understand it; they simply use it.

Many of my students don't understand the difference between what is considered a social media and what is not. This can be dangerous. If they don't understand that other teachers and potential employers can see what they post.

If they post something to their "feeds," it can be seen by anyone they are contacts with. Many times, I have seen students complaining about their professors and classes, including my own.



I had to explain to several of my classes that "social media" is a type of Internet service that allows them to post things to a great audience. Therefore, things like email are not actually social media. The subtleties in the differences between the two can be difficult for them to understand.

No one is telling them how to correctly seize and use the Internet to their advantage. They see these apps as a convenient way to chat with their friends and post things online.

But, they could be using them to do so much more than that. They could be taught to utilize these new technologies to make themselves more marketable, but it seems no one has yet to tap into the full potential of these new platforms. My students don't understand all of the possibilities that these applications could grant them.

Instead, Chinese parents and educators are concerned that their children and students are becoming addicted to things like Internet messaging and gaming systems, and they have begun to send younger children to centers for Internet addiction.

But these types of social media platforms are giving a voice to the younger generations, that don't have a lot of outlets otherwise. They are using these applications to say things that

they think and feel.

Even with this outpouring of emotion and ideals, most of these applications are still heavily regulated and controlled by the government.

This regulation isn't stopping college and high school students from making friends and chatting with people around the world. Many of them see it as an advantage to be able to connect with people thousands of kilometers away from them, even if they are wary of the "friends" they met online.

Many of my fellow professors have even jumped on the bandwagon and are using these apps to chat with students, teachers and other friends. It seems that these applications have the ability to spread to other countries, especially WeChat, as the world becomes a more global community in need of way to connect people across the globe.

In the next few years, WeChat may even overtake other social media apps in the West, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If Tencent can continue to make their technology a necessary part of living and working in China, it will soon gain a foothold in other markets. It has this possibility, especially since it offers the application in many different languages.

公园，就应该是美丽的！

美国城市里的公园并不是令人赏心悦目的地方。你看到的只有残花衰草和破旧不堪的运动器材。迈过不省人事的流浪汉和遍地垃圾，你可以让孩子在公园空地上玩一会儿。在美国，公园不是能让你娱乐身心的地方，最多能运动一下，稍作放松。中国的公园里虽然运动设施没那么多，但胜过美国公园的地方却不少。

中国的公园里设置了很多座椅，种植了很多树木，还有各种雕塑、凉亭，让公园成为朋友聚会，享受美好春光的地方。虽然缺少专业的运动场地，但现有的健身器材还是很受社区居民的欢迎。这就把中国的公园分成两类：一种是分布在社区周围的众多小公园，另一种是适合举办大型活动的大公园。每一个公园的设计都受到中国传统园林和建筑风格的影响，同时兼顾实用性，成为人们日常生活不可或缺的一部分。

在社区公园里，人们经常会遇到邻居，或在公园里结识新的朋友。你经常能看到三五成群悠闲谈话的人们。但在美国这种情况很少见。美国公园面积要大得多，所以人群都比较分散。公园也是罪案高发区，你要是恰巧经过一个犯罪现场就会很麻烦。人与人之间的互动更有可能是在打群架。所以美国人不大会和陌生人搭讪。

在中国的公园里，无论是放风筝、划船、画画还是悠闲散步，你都能感到无限的乐趣。而看着一些老人舞剑或演唱中国民歌则是更加令我着迷的事。我们这些老外应该多到中国的公园里走走。无论中国变得多么现代化，公园里永远能保持一种古典传统之美。

Parks, should be beautiful!

By Bryce Cristiano

Common parks in the urban areas of America's cities are rather grim locations. The uninspired landscape of dying grass holds a number of crumbling public recreation courts for basketball and other classic sports pastimes. If you are able to pave a road over the unconscious homeless people and the cornucopia of discarded drug paraphernalia, you'll be able to partake in the utilization of courts and a playground for children. Parks are not the kind of location you venture to for a



An old man is teaching a kid to roller skate.

source of easy entertainment, but instead for relaxation or being able to exercise. While the parks of America are dull, they manage to at least accommodate to the people who wish to play sports. This is an aspect that is generally lacking with the parks in China but that's hardly an issue when we notice all the benefits of parks in China.

If you want any idea of the level of aesthetic neglect which looms over American parks, look at our public restrooms. The grungy and boring restrooms do little good at hiding the severity of heinous activities which take place inside of them. You'll probably get more exercise walking to a nearby clinic to have yourself tested for a disease you may have contracted in the bathroom, rather than being able to utilize the park. If there's a massive amount of care that city planners put into their work, you won't see that reflected in the parks. It's shameful that such a central location of many neighborhoods is just swept under the rug and ignored.

Where America completely drops the proverbial ball, China scoops it up by creating parks that are normally pleasing areas to relax. Plenty of seating space, trees, statues, and canopies craft a location that's ideal for meeting with friends and enjoying the great spring weather with conversation. Although the parks are devoid of public courts for sports, they do offer plenty of exercising equipment which is constantly put to use by members of

the community. There seems to be two distinct types of parks in China. On one hand we have the numerous and tiny parks which act as a focal point for communities in blocks of apartments and on the other hand there's the much larger parks which serve as focal points where masses of people can gather to engage in public activities. The design of each park in China is heavily influenced by the roots of popular Chinese architectural design. They feel integrated into the daily lives of the people who live around them and their

The design of each park in China is heavily influenced by the roots of popular Chinese architectural design.

design fits the essence of their function.

Since the parks of China have such a high turnout of individuals, it allows for the perception of a community feeling. The minute size of the local parks around the apartment blocks are not a problem since the people are more susceptible to engaging in dialogue with strangers and neighbors. This is a social aspect that is rarely seen in America. The grand size of American parks allows for people to disperse themselves from strangers so that they don't have any chance encounters with another



A quiet winding road in a local park

human. Although, having space from individuals is probably for the best in most cases depending on the neighborhood you happen to be walking through as crime can be a huge problem in the inner city. The only social interactions that I have experienced in parks outside of my group of peers have been from police trying to enforce the park hours, belligerent drunks, and enraged individuals who wanted to try to start fights. This is probably indicative of a much more systemic issue dealing with the brash behavior of American xenophobia (the fear of strangers), but it's really centralized in the parks. In China, the parks serve as a central congregation point where people can socialize with their neighbors. In America, the parks serve as place where the longer you extend your stay, the more likely it is that you will come under physical attack by a wonderful community member. All the American police, who seem to come around when you want to be alone with a friend and talk in the park around midnight, they never seem to be around to actually enforce the law when your life is in danger. This is an issue of American society in general, but it's amplified in the parks.

A group of elderly women gather to practice Tai Chi under the white blossoms of the Yulan magnolia tree while scores of students berate each other as they make their way through the stone pathways of the park. An old man tries tirelessly to hone his diabolo skills, only failing to catch the flying top when he gets far too cocky with his diabolo tricks. A

group of men sit under a gazebo discussing between each other while children run past them to play on the trampolines and ride on the animal shaped carts. It's all good fun and it's hard to really feel anything but at peace in the parks here. If you don't feel like doing anything in particular, there are plenty of activities to just sit back and witness.

Whether it's partaking in kite flying, boat rides, daibolo tossing, painting ceramics, lazy walks along the lake, eating various street food, fishing, tennis, and basketball; there's always fun to be had at the parks in China. The traditional activities like sword dancing and the singing of tradition music add a fantastic level of atmosphere to the parks and give visitors a great scope into Chinese society. Someone who is visiting China should do themselves a favor and spend time in the parks. No matter how urbanized and modern the cities become, the parks of China will surely always maintain their beautiful traditional design.

The appreciation of parks as a focal point for communities is something that a great deal of American states should look to as inspiration. There's no freedom or joy in visiting American parks where the only slice of American culture you will witness are all the



A Chinese guy plays sword.

negative aspects. Maybe the problem is that Americans do not have any historical culture to draw influence from. There are no ancient temples with or customs which date back thousands of years. The infantile nature of American society should really do better at preserving their urban parks and turning them into focal points of the community. While it may be that America lacks the history, it's the melting pot of culture. America could easily use the diversity of its cities ethnicities to its benefit to create a stronger microcosm in the parks. Until the ethnicities of America learn how to collaborate together in public engagement, China will always have the superior park system. From the beautiful design which draws from ancient architecture, the kindness of strangers, and the mix bag of activities; there are no comparable examples of urban microcosms than the ones in China.

竹袖子-臂搁

现代人用毛笔写字的越来越少，一些曾经风靡于古代文人之中的文具，如今拿出来都不知道是什么用的。前日，谷先生请求天津渤海早报藏金鉴宝专刊特约专家鉴定一块竹雕板。这块竹雕板有二十厘米长，七八厘米宽，通身被磨得光溜溜的，看样子是被人经常使用或是把玩；中间凹陷的部分雕有图案：一只小鸟栖于树上，河面上的荷花荷叶随风摇摆。谷先生说，这是他父亲传给他的“古玩”，说是写字用的，但他实在搞不懂它对写字有什么帮助。

“它的学名叫‘臂搁’，古人写毛笔字时，将它放在胳膊下，以防止袖子蹭上墨迹。”专家表示，这块竹雕板下面经常接触身体的地方颜色明显泛棕红而且油亮，距现在应当有百年左右的历史。

“古人是从右向左竖向写字，就会发生袖子蹭上刚刚写好的字迹，于是就发明了臂搁来解决问题，写字时把手臂放在上面。”中国竹刻工艺大师徐秉言介绍，臂搁也叫搁臂、腕枕，明清时期比较流行。除了防止袖子沾上墨迹，垫上臂搁写字还会让写字轻松很多，如果在夏日时誊写小楷，还可以防止汗渍污染纸张。

臂搁的材质很多，奢侈一点儿的可以用象牙、红木、玉石，一般还是用竹子来做臂搁。竹子性凉，有祛暑醒脑的功效，据说当心情烦躁、精神倦怠之时，手抚臂搁就可以得一时“清净”。

Carved Bamboo Sleeves from Ming and Qing Dynasties

Nowadays it is rare for people to use an ink brush to write, so much of the old style writing equipment is unfamiliar to many people. Recently, a Mr. Gu asked a guest expert from the Tianjin Bo Hai Daily Newspaper to identify a piece of bamboo in his possession. The bamboo section was about 20 centimeters long and 7 centimeters wide and had a surface that was quite smooth with carved patterns in the middle. The

carving was of a bird resting in a tree overhanging a river. The leaves of the tree are swaying in a breeze. Mr. Gu said, "this is a piece that had been passed down through my family over many years." He had been told that the device was an aid for ink brush writing but he had no idea how it was used.

The expert explained that "when writing old style calligraphy, the writer would usually put the piece of bamboo under their arms so



their sleeves wouldn't get into the ink. This would explain why the "bottom part of the bamboo is brown and shiny because of its constant contact with the skin". It would be "more than a 100 years old" was the expert's considered opinion.

Because the hand writing order for old style calligraphy is vertical and then from the right to left it was difficult to prevent the sleeves of the writer smearing the freshly written characters. So to solve the problem, the bamboo sleeve was invented, the master of China Bamboo Carving Crafts, Mr. Xu Bing Yan informed us. The bamboo sleeve is also called a wrist pillow or arm pad and was popular in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In addition to preventing the sleeves from disturbing the ink, it was much easier to use the bamboo pad to rest your arm while writing with the brush pen. Moreover, it protected the paper from the artist's perspiration during summer time.

The arm pads were made from various materials including ivory, jade, mahogany, or as we have seen, bamboo. One of bamboo's properties is that it feels cool to the touch so it would also have helped to relieve the tired writer as they went about their painstaking task.



Looking for signs of spring

Hopeland International Kindergarten April Spring Excursion
Spring has sprung and we can feel the warm sunshine, breathe in the fresh air, smell the intoxicating scent of the flowers and see greenness everywhere. This April on a bright spring day, the children and teachers of Hopeland International Kindergarten celebrated the best season of the year with an exploration of the secret of spring. Clad in their clean uniforms topped off with red hats, the children followed the kindergarten's flag and headed off to the Water Park. Our journey into spring began with the singing of beautiful songs.

The children were so excited to see the many varieties of flowers, run on the soft grass and admire the waving willows. As they watched the hardworking gardeners, the children realized the importance of protecting and maintaining our precious eco environment. All along the way we were surrounded by the heady atmosphere of spring and could feel the change in the appearance of the plants and animals. Other people who were also enjoying the delights of the season were impressed by the politeness and good behavior of our children. It was such a happy way to feel the true beauty of spring.

找春天的足迹——华兰国际幼稚园4月春游集锦
暖的阳光、清新的空气、迷人的花香、满眼的嫩绿……在这个春意盎然的季节里我们华兰国际全体师生一同走近春天，探索春天的秘密。孩子们穿着整齐的礼仪服，佩带醒目的小红帽，举着招牌的小圆旗，哼着儿歌，一路来到了水上公园，开始我们寻找春天的旅途……
在这里，我们看到了缤纷的花朵，柔软的小草和摇摆的柳条……，同时还有辛勤工作的园艺叔叔，让我们懂得保护生态环境的重要。一路上我们排着整齐的隊伍悠悠地感受春天的气息，感受动、植物的变化，向游园的人们展示我们良好的礼仪规范和精神风貌，感受春日的美好，感受那么多那么多的幸福感觉……

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中国再次遭遇韩流

随着韩剧《来自星星的你》的热播，又一股韩流席卷中国各地。任何与这部戏有关的内容都能成为热门话题。剧中，女主角最爱的啤酒炸鸡成为粉丝们争先购买的食物。一些地区因为禽流感而滞销的鸡肉瞬间有了销路。在天津，梅江地区的一个不起眼的炸鸡店一夜之间成了美食搜索榜上的冠军，变得门庭若市。想要吃到炸鸡几乎要排一个小时的队。

西方人很少会对韩剧感冒，因为他们的思想比较务实。以我这个西方韩剧迷的经验来看，欣赏韩剧一定放弃一些常识。比如，韩剧中经常有这样的情节，一段秘密谈话一定会恰好被经过的死对头听到，因为说话的人就站在对方经常出没的地方。

我能理解为什么韩剧能俘获各个年龄层的中国观众。首先，韩剧中呈现的生活方式都是普通人向往的。男主角帅到没朋友，女主角也是美若天仙。当然，我们都心知肚明，这些演员大都已经改头换面了。

韩剧里男主角的身材也经常是人们议论的焦点。新晋的男星如金秀贤和李敏镐都在中国拥有一个雅号，叫“长腿欧巴”。曾经有个韩国女孩在电视访谈上说：“身高不到一米八的男生都好失败啊！”在这种潮流驱使下，男演员都必须有壮硕的肌肉，但腰围不能超过20寸。几乎每部韩剧都会有男主角沐浴的镜头，为的就是展示他们的好身材。

我就是个中了韩剧毒的西方人。因为爱看韩剧，我特意去韩国旅游，遍访韩剧中出现过的场景，在塑料帐篷里吃海鲜喝烧酒。是不是听起来有些疯狂？

China Hit By Huge Wave

by Paula Taylor

China has been hit by a huge wave that has had an immense impact on the way many people live their lives. This wave even has a name – the Korean Wave. Fortunately it has nothing to do with water so no damage has been done. The Korean Wave is all things Korean, food, music, clothes, TV etc. Currently China is in the grip of a new drama series, “You Who Came From The Stars” and consequently anything Korean is now an advertiser’s dream product. The main male actor, Kim Soo Hyun has hit the jackpot as he has been chosen to star in a world famous soft drink commercial in China. When a Chinese audience embraces something they go for the whole package and everything about this drama is a hot topic. Every single item of clothes and jewellery that the main actress, Jeon Ji Hyun wears is discussed in detail and spawns thousands of copies.

The drama is basically the story of an alien that took on human form, came to earth 400 years ago and has been stranded here ever since. At first he tries not to get involved in the affairs of humans, but predictably (for a Korean drama), starts to fall in love with Jeon Ji Hyun, who plays an actress. Then, just to keep things interesting, there is a psycho or two intent on murdering Jeon Hi Hyun.

Now to tell you something really strange. In the storyline, Jeon Ji Hyun has a liking for fried chicken and beer. Consequently sales of both have gone through the roof in China, and even though there was a bird flu scare in some parts of China and so people should have been eating less chicken, stocks were depleted rapidly. This phenomenon has even affected Tianjin. Yes, Tianjin. A humble Korean fried chicken shop in Meijiang has become so popular as a result of this drama that now people have to wait for a whole hour before they get their orders, queues are outside the door.

These dramas don't



Lee Minho

Apparently a Korean girl went on TV and said unless a guy is 1.8m tall, he is a loser, so this fuelled a demand for tall guys on the screen.

usually appeal to most Westerners as we are too practically and realistically minded, and in order to watch and get absorbed in them, you have to suspend disbelief. For instance there are always scenes such as this: Man on a telephone “You mean if this news gets out, the president’s enemies can use it bring down the government?” Of course there is always one of the president’s enemies conveniently listening, as the man is speaking in a public place where the president’s enemies hang out. Baddies take on almost caricature like personas. Whereas on Western TV shows product placements are largely banned, Korean dramas have lots of sponsors so their products feature heavily and there is a list of sponsors at the end of every episode.

However in China Korean dramas appeal on every level, hence other knock-on effects include the fact that sales of package tours to Korea visiting places that have appeared in other dramas have increased enormously. I can suspend disbelief because these dramas are hugely entertaining and I can well understand why the Chinese audiences go overboard for them. For a start they are presenting a lifestyle and image that many people crave. The guys are ridiculously good looking and incredibly rich and the women are impossibly beautiful. Of course no need for me to emphasise that the majority of them have had plastic surgery.

Chinese girls love Korean clothes as they are really cutesy and pretty. Korean men wear ornate shirts and jackets and low cut T-shirts, so

Chinese guys think that Korean fashion is seriously cool. This is something I can't agree with. If those guys walked down a London street wearing a t-shirt slashed almost to the navel....I dread to think what would happen. In fact when a member of an English boy band wore a similar t-shirt, he was vilified in the press. Speaking of fashion, those actors are really skinny and they wear skinny jeans. I worked in a Korean high school once and I warned the teenage boys that if they carried on wearing such skin tight trousers, it may be that in the future they would not be able to fulfil their dreams of fatherhood. The girls asked me if I liked skinny jeans. I told them that the boys' legs were so skinny that they looked like chopsticks encased in denim. There is no way that I would ever have fitted in their jeans. However do not forget that in Asia skinny is good - for men too.

There is a word that Koreans use to address either an elder brother or boyfriend, Oppa. This has translated to 欧巴 (Ou ba) in Chinese, and if the skinny legged guys are also long legged, even better. The name coined for them is 长腿欧巴 chang tui ou ba, or long legged ouba. Apparently a Korean girl went on TV and said unless a guy is 1.8m tall, he is a loser, so this fuelled a demand for tall guys on the screen. The male stars also have to be muscular, or as muscular as they can be considering they seem to have 20" waists, and they must have no underarm or chest hair as Korean women hate hairy men. There are quite a few opportunities in almost every drama for the guys to appear showering in order to show off said muscular physique. By the way it was Korean male stars that made make up for men



Beer and fried chicken make the most popular food

acceptable.

As I said, I totally understand why Korean dramas are so popular in China, after all the stars are Asian and so have Asian looks, something that can be emulated. Chinese fans can dress like and copy the looks and styles of the Korean stars they see. The way Chinese audiences have taken Korean stars into their hearts is something that is probably not possible for Western stars to achieve.

What kind of crazy person would want to eat something just because they saw it on a drama? Erm that would be...me. What kind of crazy person wants to visit a place because they saw it on a drama? Erm that would be...me. Again. Haven't I been telling you all along

that I am an expert on Korean dramas? Sadly not only am I an expert, but I am also a victim. I took a trip to Korea which was basically a homage to all the dramas I have ever seen. My no. 1 place to visit was Nam Sam Tower, which featured in a famous scene in my favourite drama. Next on my list was to eat seafood and drink Soju (Korean alcohol) in a tent (little street restaurant), because I saw them do it so many times in the dramas. Korean dramas appeal to me because they follow a predictable formula and I know exactly where the storyline is going to go and what the end result is going to be even before I start watching. It is nice and safe. By the way I have eaten chicken from that shop in Meijiang and it is delicious.



You Who Came From The Stars



Spectacular scenery of the Yangtze

无处不自拍

英文中“自拍”这个词是2002年诞生的，但直到两三年前才真正流行起来，指的是人们用手机或卡片机为自己拍照。东西方的人们对自拍这一现象的看法大致相同，但也有些细微的差异。

以中国和美国为例，两个国家的老年人大都不理解这种做法。我的阿姨认为爱自拍的人都是渴望别人关注，缺乏安全感的人。这个观点很能代表这一代人，他们本身就不用智能手机，更不会使用那些社交媒体，所以根本不会自拍。

年轻人对自拍自然有不同的观点。最初，自拍是为了寻求关注，但渐渐的，人们开始认为自拍代表一种自我欣赏和自我表现，对女性来说就更是如此。当主流媒体上充斥着各种理想中的女性形象，女人们试图用自拍来展现真实之美。而自拍并不是女性的专利，男人们也用自拍来对抗世俗对英俊的定义，展现自己独特的魅力。

当自拍在民间风靡，一些政治和娱乐明星也投入到晒自拍的行列，比如奥巴马和著名脱口秀主持人艾伦都把自拍作为媒体战略的一部分。但是一个中国女孩告诉我，在中国这种现象是倒过来的，是明星先掀起了自拍风潮，网民才开始跟风的。

一个中国的男生说：网上很多自拍都是假的，是PS过的。他对网上的信息充满不信任。在网络大爆炸的时代，已经有很多人在网上受骗上当了，所以他的顾虑是非常正当的。网络上爆发的那些丑闻导致很多人不再相信网络。

在中国，面子是件大事，所以自拍的也必须看起来有面子。有人告诉我，有些人发自拍是为了展示一种优越感，让他的朋友们感到自卑。这一点和我们“分享生活”的观念大相径庭。

很多美国人只允许好友看到自己的状态，这就能保证交流的真实性。人们基本不会在自拍上作假，但会使用滤镜修饰一下。把自己最好的一面呈现出来，这是东西方网民的共识。

看，我们又多了一个共识！自拍已经成为全球年轻人都热衷的一件事。虽然我们不能做到观点全部一致，但通过自拍，我们的联系更紧密了。

Selfies are Everywhere

by Ashton Weis

“Selfie” is a term that was coined in 2002, but has gained huge popularity in the last two or three years, but selfies have been popular with the initiation of MySpace. The word gives a name to taking a self-portrait, generally with a

smart phone or hand-held camera. While many Eastern and Western views over selfies collide and agree with one another, there are some subtle differences in how the two cultures view this new phenomenon.



Snap and post

Many of the older generation in both China and America, don't understand the reasons behind selfies. My aunt described "selfies" as a desperate ploy for attention and assurance.

This attitude describes much of the older generation, especially the people who don't possess a smart phone, as selfies are usually equated with social media, such as Instagram and the Chinese equivalents.

The younger generation, however, sees selfies as something different, altogether.

With the explosion of selfies in the States, many people were divided over their meaning and views toward selfies.

At first, they were seen as attention seeking, but over time the view has changed towards selfies. I see many Facebook and Twitter posts about how selfies are an empowering way to

In a Western world full of images that attempt to batter women into an "ideal" version of beauty, selfies are considered to be a way to show "real" beauty.

love yourself and show yourself off.

Feminists especially have gotten behind selfies as a way of self-expression. And they are recently being considered as a new form of self-appreciation. In a Western world full of images that attempt to batter women into an "ideal" version of beauty, selfies are considered to be a way to show "real" beauty.

Women aren't the only ones taking selfies, as it is popular between both sexes. Men are also using it to fight the stereotypes that dictate what is handsome.

This is a shift in the attitudes toward these photos. After the public acceptance and even welcoming of these new images, celebrities, such as President Obama and Ellen DeGeneres have started using selfies in their media strategies, making the trend even more popular. A Chinese girl explained to me that the phenomenon happened the other way around in China. First, the celebrities began taking selfies, and then common people begin to copy.

This is a major difference in the popular acceptance of selfies. Many selfies in the Western world are posted on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. China blocks these sites,

ALL YOU NEED IS LIKE



so the selfies are posted through different sites, such as Weibo and QQ. Although, Instagram is available in China.

"They are probably fake," said a young male Chinese friend of mine. He doesn't agree with the use of selfies, because he thinks that the images are fake or altered using photo software, such as Photoshop.

He is extremely distrustful of the information he sees online in any form, and this ideal applies to selfies.

He has every reason to be with the media explosion concerning people who have been deceived and robbed on the internet, using these types of exploitive measures.

This media scandal plays into the general distrust of the Internet in China and only contributes to these ideas that there is much false information on the Internet that people post about themselves.

Because of the Chinese ideal of "face," it is a big deal to make yourself look as important and successful as possible. Many Chinese people post things online to boast about themselves.

It has been described to me that this can be a way to make the online "friends" of that person feel shame or embarrassment as to the status of their life. This is a big divergence from the



Ellen DeGeneres played selfie with stars on the latest Oscar Award ceremony



Look, she's having fun!

American ideal of sharing your life with your friends, via online.

Many Americans only allow followers or contacts based on people they know in real life. This cuts down on the distrust between the two groups and allows for real interaction, based on online or social media applications and websites.

Many of the selfies shown in America are not fake, indeed, they may use a filter over them, but the images are not doubted outright as not being real.

But, the idea of the selfie in both cultures is to make yourself look as good as possible.

In China, this idea is taken to the next level. Because there are so many people in China and so many of them are using the Internet, Chinese people are aware of Internet predators everywhere. They are extremely cautious to things they read and see online, because many of them are tricked or deceived by what is contributed to the web sphere.

There is a general consensus between the two cultures that there is a limit to the amount of selfies a person can take and post. We all have that one social media friend

"If you buy a new hat or get a new haircut, then I understand why you would want to take a selfie. But, I have friends who post selfies everyday, all the time, for no reason,

and that's annoying," said a Chinese friend of mine. She seems to be drawing a bigger conclusion that there is a limit to the reason for posting a selfie.

If you want to share something new, different or exciting, then it's perfectly acceptable to post that photo of yourself online. But, if you continue to post nonsense pictures of yourself for no reason, that seems to be a desperate ploy for attention to see how many "likes" you can get.

In this case, both cultures are in agreement.

All in all, selfies seem to be taking the social media and Internet world by storm. Everywhere you look, you can see a debate over their uses and reasons. As technology evolves to allow us to take photos anytime, anywhere and of anything, this was bound to be a consequence of the ease of smart phones and social media.

Many different people share selfies for many reasons and the ideology towards them is shifting into a form of self-appreciation in the West; but in the East, the idea remains that any photos or information posted by non-regulated websites are false or some sort of ploy to divert those taken in by it in some way. However, in both cultures, the older generations don't seem to understand the sudden need to document every move a person makes online through their profiles and blogs.

"Selfies" are something that the younger generations of the world share, and only further add to our connections as a global community. As the technology advances, so do our connections with each other, even if we hold different views and ideas about those connections.

五台山

佛教在中国有很长的历史。中国有四大佛教名山，分别是五台山、九华山、普陀山和峨眉山。离天津最近的就是五台山，位于太原市以北245公里。五台山不仅是佛教徒朝圣的名山，这里也有十分美丽的景色，吸引着来自各地的游客。

五台山大大小小的寺庙被碗状的群山环绕，在这里你能感到远离尘嚣的宁静。景点门票有效期为三天，足够你把周边的寺庙都走一遍。即使你对佛教在中国的历史知之甚少也没关系，仅仅欣赏那些结构精巧的建筑就足以令你啧啧称奇了。现存的53座古寺中，南禅寺是历史最为悠久的木质建筑，建于1000多年前的唐代。塔院寺的白塔也是五台山的标志，这是供奉高僧舍利子（舍利）的地方。

去五台山要经历4个小时的大巴路程，我一直被沿路两旁的群山吸引着。在雾霾笼罩的城市生活的时间太久，能置身于这样宁静的乡村景色中还是第一次。

五台山不仅有清新的空气，当地人也非常友好。一次，我在路上搭上一趟顺风车。我和司机尝试各种方式来交流，非常有趣。我想，这是开启古刹历险一日游的最好方式了。

如果你想了解更多风土人情和历史，你需要有一定的中文水平。如果你对各种宗教仪式感兴趣，寺庙的和尚可以帮助你，他会给你讲解每个仪式的宗教意义。在上山途中我见到最多的就是各种各样的同心锁。这其实和佛教无关，但这代表了人们的一种感情，希望庙里的菩萨能保佑他们梦想成真。

来到五台山，你一定要尝尝山西的特色面食。在村子里的很多小饭馆你都能吃到味道正宗的面条和其他山西菜肴，而且价格低廉。

你无论哪个季节来五台山都不会失望。冬天被积雪覆盖的雕花屋檐，春天欣欣向荣的绿色植物，夏天吹进山谷的丝丝凉风，秋冬之交的依依不舍，每个季节都有自己的极致。这里就像是与世隔绝的天堂，深邃的历史感一直吸引着朝圣者和旅行者。

Mount Wutai

by Bryce Cristiano

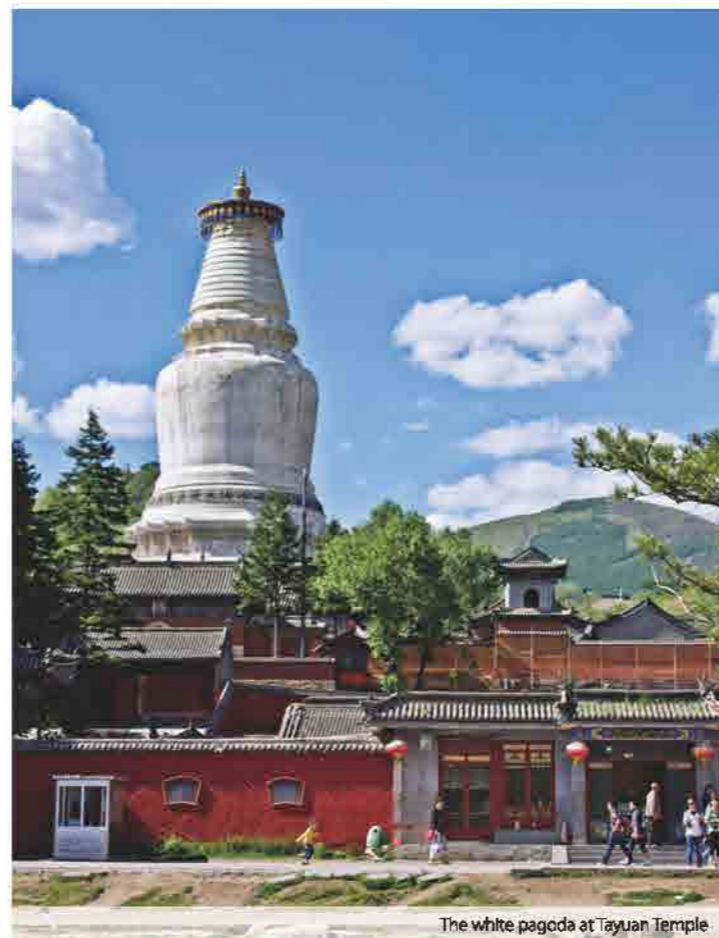


The bundled locks

Chinese Buddhism has a well-established and easily recognizable history throughout the country. According to Chinese Buddhism, there are four sacred mountains which are said to have been where the enlightenment of four major Bodhisattvas (a person who seeks the state of becoming a Buddha) occurred. Since these are the locations of such prominent enlightenments; the practitioners of Chinese Buddhism established extensive monasteries at Mount Wutai (North), Mount Juhua (South), Mount Putuo (East), Mount Emei (West). If you find yourself in Taiyuan, the central city of Shanxi province, looking for an excursion into the outdoors you can do no better than heading 245km north to Wutai Shan 五台山. Literally meaning, Five Plateau Mountain, this scenic location not only serves as a pilgrimage site for Buddhists but it's also a beautiful location for tourists. In the mountains of Mount Wutai it's easy to get caught up for the entire day by exploring all the various temples that dot the five plateaus. Situated in a position where you're surrounded by the mountains in a sort of bowl leads to a feeling of peaceful isolation as you can truly feel free and bask in the glorious green nature around you. The ticket which you must pay for on arrival at the

entrance to Mount Wutai is valid for a three day stay, which should be long enough to take in all the nearby temples hiking the plateaus. It should be known though that most of the time the tickets go unchecked and you could easily over stay your time in Mount Wutai if you simply can't tear yourself away from its clear air, the magnificent scenery, and the rich history.

It takes very little initial knowledge of Chinese Buddhism to be amazed by the complex architectural style and sheer magnitude of their temples. Entering into each monastery is like going on an adventure where you're not entirely sure what kind of treasures or sights that you'll be able to feast your eyes on. Originally home to over 300 temples, there are now only 53 monasteries remaining. Among the remaining constructs is the Nanchan Temple which remains the oldest wooden construct in all of China which dates back to the Tang Dynasty (Over one thousand years ago). Another iconic sight of Mount Wutai is the Tayuan Temple which boasts the Great White Pagoda which is a massive limestone stupa that dominates the landscape around it. If you have any interest in finding yourself walking in halls that have been lived in for hundreds of years, you'll get



The white pagoda at Tayuan Temple

a complete fill of that experience as you travel from temple to temple.

Initially when I arrived after the four hour bus journey, I was already taken back by the glorious sight of the expanding mountains. For too long had I been trapped in the grey and smoggy city, so this for me was a fantastic change of pace to be out in the beautiful Chinese country side for the first time.

Not only is the air itself of good quality, but so are the attitudes of the people. Flocking from the further provinces, this mountain retreat is a wonderful place to run into citizens from all over the country who may be surprised to see a foreigner. You can be sure to be treated with kindness, not only from the patrons of the village but by the other tourists who will be eager to not only take pictures with the backdrop of beautiful mountains, but pictures with you. Whether you're traveling to Mount Wutai alone or with friends, you're guaranteed to have the chance to meet up with great individuals out there. A lengthy road winds from the village to the temples, making it imperative to take the bus from your hotel room to the temples as the walk can take a great deal of energy out of you before you even have a chance

to reach the monasteries. There's a bus system that can be utilized for all the tourists at a small price but you can try your hand at hitch-hiking up the road if you feel comfortable with trusting the locals. I myself opted for the latter option and was picked up by a vehicle that was transporting monks to the temples. Amused by the situation, we all had a pleasant time trying to communicate to each other during the drive. The drive seemed an ideal way to start out a day of carefree adventures in ancient monasteries.

It doesn't hurt to come prepared with a sufficient level of Mandarin proficiency, if you intend on picking up some of the local customs and history. Allowing yourself to be a tourist here is worthwhile as you'll be able to learn a great deal and engage in local rituals on a daily basis. The monks are more than welcome to assist anyone who is uncertain about the meaning of particular rituals and will always be excited to see others engaging in the rituals with them. Some common things

Situated in a position where you're surrounded by the mountains in a sort of bowl leads to a feeling of peaceful isolation as you can truly feel free and bask in the glorious green nature around you.

you'll find as you ascend perilous steps are giant masses of locks. It's common for people to buy locks of various sizes and bring them to these locations strewn around various temples to lock them onto the bundle of other locks. It's not a traditional aspect of Buddhism but it's a sentiment that by contributing your own lock, it's attaching your wishes to the temple. Even if this is an entirely incorrect belief, it's still meaningful for many people to contribute to the peculiar metal pounds in a way that feels permanent without causing damage to the temples. My visit at Mount Wutai happened to correspond with the celebration of the , the Shui-lu Rite. Hundreds of tourists took to the lighting of hundreds of candles in front of a large altar which had been meticulously decorated with offerings to an important bodhisattva.

Food is plentiful here and you'll have your pick of a diverse range of dishes. In the village you have a number of small restaurants which serve your standard cuisine, but the most renowned food in Mount Wutai is the famous Shanxi noodles. If you're feeling in the mood to binge on noodles, you can't go wrong here since most of the restaurants consist of noodle dishes that aren't priced too well. Searching for long enough though will unveil some interesting local cuisine and various meats that you otherwise wouldn't find in the city.

No matter which season you decide to take out time to visit the ancient temples of Mount Wutai, you're guaranteed to enjoy the experience. From the snow-capped ornate rooftops, the blossoming nature of the surrounding plant life, the cool air that breezes into the valley, and the late changing of seasons towards the end of the year; each season grants its perks. Mount Wutai seems to stand isolated in its paradise, a remnant of the past which is always ready to receive pilgrims and tourists alike.

西沽公园

西沽公园位于红桥区，是天津市开放时间较久，规模较大的公园之一。走进西沽公园，阵阵花香扑面而来。沿着小路往公园深处走，外面的嘈杂之声渐渐隐退，所有的坏心情也随之烟消云散。气味是游人对这座公园的第一印象。厌倦了大型商场里千篇一律的商店和快餐吗？不妨来西沽公园散散步，让清新的花香洗涤你的心灵。

除了似锦的繁花，西沽公园还有许多种类的树木。和其他景观带的纤细树苗不同，西沽公园里大都是参天大树，会吸引淘气的男孩去攀爬也会让放飞的风筝滞浅。它们不是一天长成的，不知经历了多少风雨历练。看着这些树，让人不禁想起生命的意义。在公园里，这些大自然的恩赐得到妥善的保护。每一棵树上都写着树木的学名和类别，让人很长知识。

这样优美的环境自然能吸引很多游人来此度过休闲时光。拍摄婚纱照的情侣、下棋的老人、滑旱冰的孩子、打乒乓球、放风筝、玩呼啦圈和做运动的人们构成一幅生动的趣味生活画卷。公园里的羽毛球、篮球、乒乓球和排球场地都是免费使用的。

除了自然景观，西沽公园里还有一个冀望和梁崎纪念馆，他们分别是书法家和美术家，并且一直在红桥区居住。北京的老字号酒店也在西沽公园开了分号，你可以挑选一些名家字画装点家居送给亲朋好友。

XiGu Park

XīGū GōngYuán



A bunch of Tai Chi players in the park

To see trees that hadn't been planted yesterday, bringing to mind what life is meant to be like, is fantastic.

Are you sick of smog and all the mall madness? Searching for the scent of fresh flowers? Then take a trip to XiGu Park. XiGu Park is located in the HongQiao District of Tianjin (Tianjin HongQiao District). The main entrance to the park is at the corner of Guang Rong Dao and HongQiao Bei DaJie. There is also a second gate across the street from the Tianjin Fifth Middle School (天津五中东校区).

If you are headed to XiGu Park by cab, show the cab driver the following Chinese characters: 天津红桥区西沽公园在光荣道与红桥北大街交口. If you want to take the metro, ride Tianjin Metro Line 1 to the HongHui Stop, then take any of the four exits. Finally walk North East away from the station. You will need to follow GuangRong Dao 光荣道 for about 5-10 minutes depending on your pace until arriving at the XiGu Park. If the bus is your choice, than take any of a number of buses available to the DingZiGu YiHaoLu Stop (丁字沽一号路站), this stop is pretty much at the front gate of XiGu Park.

With transportation out of the way, back to the story of why you want to go discover the XiGu Park. Tianjin has a number of parks to choose from. XiGu Park is one of the older and larger Tianjin Parks. During the visit to prepare this article, the most memorable impression made by XiGu Park came via the scent of fresh flowers found within its grounds. It is hard to remember the last time the scent of sweet spring blossoms found its way to my door, so it was a wonderful surprise to find such a scent wafting through the air of XiGu Park. With the buzz of busy streets and honking horns fading further away with each step into the parks center, flowery freshness in the air, instantly a poor mood can take a turn for the better. For those tired of mall after mall filled with the same old stores, accompanied by the smell of fast food restaurants, why not try a walk in XiGu Park with flowery fragrance instead the next time you get some time.

Flowers aren't the only nature to be enjoyed at XiGu Park. There are also a hefty amount of trees of various variations. The trees



A grandma takes her granddaughter out for some sunshine

in the park for the most part are not saplings but rather real big old trees! The type of trees that beckon boys to climb and spell doom for kites trying to fly high. It was absolutely wonderful to see some real nature. To see trees that hadn't been planted yesterday, bringing to mind what life is meant to be like, is fantastic. Away from the concrete jungle amidst the wholesome goodness of tall trees which help to protect and improve the environment we seem so intent on destroying is simply refreshing. As a small side bonus, expats looking to expand their Chinese vocabulary, each different tree has a sign with the type of tree written on it in Chinese.

Besides the flowers and trees, there are trails to be travelled in XiGu Park. Many a winding trail awaits you and your loved one to stroll. As you walk along you will likely see some fellow love birds, as on the day of our visit, four different couples were seen at various stops throughout the XiGu Park taking wedding photos. The paths will also take you to a number of open spaces filled with people enjoying their pastime of choice. Be it playing Chinese chess, roller blading, playing badminton, flying kites, shooting hoops, or exercising, such activities will likely be seen during a visit to XiGu Park. In addition to some free space to move around in, you will also find outdoor badminton, basketball, ping pong, and volleyball courts. Best of all they are free! The park opens daily from 6 am to 10 pm, so as the weather and light permits, feel free to come and get your game on in XiGu Park.

Outside of the natural side of XiGu Park you also have the historic and cultural side.

Inside the park is the Gong Wang and Liang Qi Memorial (冀望和梁崎纪念馆). As with other memorials or cultural centers through Tianjin and China, the Gong Wang and Liang Qi Memorial is closed on Mondays. The other days it is open from 9 am to 11:30 am, closed during lunch, and open again from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. However, you must enter the memorial before 4:20 pm.

Upon entering the Gong Wang and Liang Qi Memorial you will learn about the lives of two longtime residents of Tianjin's HongQiao District. Gong Wang is a famous Chinese Calligraphist. His calligraphy is available for viewing at the memorial. Liang Qi is a renowned Chinese artist. A collection of his artwork is also on display at the center. So as



Walk in the park for more oxygen

you stroll through the XiGu Park save some time to see the various pieces of art inside.

Next on your list of spots to take a peek at is the BaoRongZhai Store (荣宝斋天津分店). This is a Beijing based company focused on promoting Chinese culture. Inside the Tianjin branch of BaoRongZhai you will find yet another collection of artistic works, including Chinese calligraphy, Chinese paintings, and even Chinese fans. The artwork here is available for sale. In addition the store has a selection of quality art related materials for the artist, such as a supply of high end Chinese calligraphy brushes, inks, ink stones, and paper. For those interested in learning more about handmade Chinese fans, do stop by the BaoRongZhai Store. As they are the exclusive vendor of famous Chinese fan makers Cao Xiao Di (曹小第) and Zheng Gao (郑高).

Be it for a breath of fresh air filled with fragrant flowers or a picture perfect moment with your companion of choice plan a trip to the Tianjin XiGu Park. As you saunter along, catch a bit of Chinese culture as you visit the Gong Wang and Liang Qi Memorial along with the BaoRongZhai Store. Don't forget to bring your game either, as the various outdoor sports courts inside the park are waiting for the athlete in all of us. For those young in years or young in heart bring your kite and let it sail in the sky above the many open areas throughout the park. Roller bladers are also welcome and many can be found practicing their skills here. For the dancers out there, as the early evening arrives so does the music and the groups of friends looking to get their groove on. There is plenty to do and see at the Tianjin XiGu Park.

Service to Southeast Asian destinations strengthened for summer season

Korean Air has strengthened its service to major Southeast Asian destinations for the summer season, which started on March 30.

Flight service on the Incheon- Hanoi route has been boosted from seven times a week to 11 times beginning on March 31. The new flight KE479 departs Incheon at 8:30 a.m. and arrives in Hanoi at 11:10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. On Mondays, it leaves Incheon at 9:15 a.m. and arrives in Hanoi at 11:55 a.m. the same day. Flight KE679 leaves Incheon at 6:45 p.m. every day and arrives in Hanoi at 9:30 p.m.

The Incheon-Jakarta route is also served 10 times a week beginning on April 2, three more from the past. The new flight KE 625 leaves Incheon at 7:25 p.m. and arrives in Jakarta at 12:35 a.m. the next day. Flight KE627 will continue to serve the Incheon-Jakarta route every day, departing Incheon at 3:20 p.m. and arriving in Jakarta at 8:10 p.m.

Korean Air will also drastically increase flights from Busan to Southeast Asian destinations during the summer holiday season. The Busan-Siem Reap route

will be served four times a week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) from July 28 to Aug 22 from the current two weekly flights.

The Busan-Sebu route will be also served four times a week (Wednesday, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays) from July 27 to Aug 24, two more than the current service. Korean Air has added two more flights on the Busan-Guam route since March 30, operating on the route four times a week (Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays).



Spring News from Korean Air

Cabin crew of Korean Air present plant growing kits to children in front of the airline's office in Seosomun, downtown Seoul, on April 2. The company offered similar plant growing kits to its customers at check-in counters in 12 local airports, including Gimpo, Busan and Jeju, to celebrate Arbor Day on April 5. Korean Air has presented customers with such kits over the past 17 years since 1998 to share the joy of spring and the meaning of Arbor Day.

Korean Air introduces the A380 on Paris route

Korean Air has announced the start of of an A380 service between Incheon International Airport and Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris.

From March 30, 2014, Korean Air's A380, which is configured with 407 seats, replaced the 291-seat B777-300 formerly used on the route, thereby increasing the total capacity on the route by 40 percent.

Flight KE901 departs from Seoul/Incheon at 1:05 p.m. daily and arrives at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport at 6:20 p.m. the same day. The return flight, KE902, leaves Paris daily at 9 p.m. and arrives in Seoul/Incheon at 2:50 p.m. the following day.

Korean Air's three-class layout of 407 seats is the lowest configuration of any A380 operator so far. The airline's double-decker A380s feature cutting-edge amenities, with 12 ultra-luxurious First Class Kosmo Suites, 301 Economy Class seats on the main lower deck, and 94 fully lie-flat Prestige Sleeper seats in Prestige Class (business class) on the upper deck.

In addition, the aircraft has unique inflight facilities, such as the world's first "Duty Free Showcase" and a new onboard bar and lounge area, offering a brand new and highly enjoyable inflight experience.

Currently, Korean Air operates eight A380 aircraft with two more joining the fleet by the end of this year.



Korean Air unveils new lounge at Los Angeles Airport

Korean Air, the largest Asian airline serving the United States, has unveiled its new lounge for Prestige and First Class passengers and 20 Sky Team customers at Los Angeles Airport (LAX), one of the biggest gateways to the west coast of America.



Located on the fifth floor of the Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles Airport, the new lounge was designed by Gensler, a global integrated architecture and design firm responsible for many innovative design projects for airport facilities around the world.

Korean Air is committed to providing service excellence both in flight and on the ground. The new 305-seat, 1,320-square-meter lounge is 68 percent larger and can accommodate 135 more passengers. Furthermore, the lounge offers exclusive services, including four private lounge rooms and shower booths, a lounge balcony offering panoramic views of the entire terminal, and a luggage depository area.

In addition, as a flagship carrier of South Korea, Korean Air has placed a drawing of Changdeok Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site, on the wall at the lounge entrance, giving passengers from all around the world a glimpse at the beauty of traditional Korean palace architecture.

Korean Air currently operates an A380 to Los Angeles twice a day. With its new premium lounge, the airline aims to offer the best service

to customers.

The carrier will be adding a second A380 flight to New York in May, making it the only airline serving both U.S. coasts with double daily A380 flights from Asia.

Earlier this year, Korean Air also announced a daily service to Houston starting in May.

Double daily A380 flight service to New York begins in May

Korean Air will operate an A380 from Incheon/Seoul to New York twice a day beginning on May 25.

At present, one of the two daily services to New York, flight KE081 that departs Incheon at 10:05 a.m., is served by an A380. But a B777 jetliner is operating on flight KE085 that leaves Incheon at 7:30 p.m. The B777 will be replaced by an A380.

New York will be the second American city served by an A380 of Korean Air twice a day, following Los Angeles.

Configured in a three-class layout with just 407 seats in total, the lowest configuration of any A380 operator so far, Korean Air's doubledecker A380 features the latest amenities, with 12 ultra-luxurious First Class Kosmo Suites. The upper deck, reserved for the exclusive use of Prestige Class passengers,

has 94 fully lie-flat sleeper seats. The 201 "New Economy" seats of Korean Air's A380s were also ergonomically designed for the comfort of passengers. The space between seats is the widest among all A380s currently in service in the world.

The ultra-luxurious and unique inflight facilities on the A380, such as the world's first "Duty Free Showcase" and "Celestial Bar" for First and Prestige Class passengers, also offer a new and highly enjoyable in-flight experience.

Korean Air will add two more A380s to its fleet by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, the Korean national flag carrier will launch a daily nonstop service to Houston on May 2. Korean Air will continue to expand its network and develop new markets to secure competency as a global airline company.

Korean Air to build Bobsleds for Korean Team



Korean Air will soon manufacture sleds for the Korean national bobsleigh team in cooperation with experts from local universities and USC of the US. Cho Yang-ho, chairman and CEO of Hanjin Group and Korean Air, has recently ordered the production when he heard that the Korean team members use Dutch-made sleds.

Holiday Inn Tianjin Binhai 2014 Wedding Show

A grand wedding show named "Upon a Life Time" was held Holiday Inn Tianjin Binhai on March 29th. Since it was the first event of this kind ever happened in the hotel, many preferable conditions and discounts, which attracted many to-be couples to sign the contract. The total deposit for wedding dinner reached over 300,000rmb.



The hotel co-organized the event with many relative businesses, such as wedding planning companies, wedding host companies, wedding dress leasing, bed products and real estate developers, providing a one-stop service for new couples. The guests were very satisfied with the event, especially in the lucky draw part with prizes worth over 200,000RMB and a winning rate about 50%.

Spring Outing at the Great Wall—Somerset International Building Tianjin & Somerset Youyi Tianjin

It is the great season for an outing. The wind is soft, the sunny day and the flowers are blooming everywhere. So Somerset International Building & Somerset Youyi Tianjin made a quick decision to take our residents out to enjoy the spring breeze. There's an old saying in China, "the one who hasn't been to the Great Wall is not a true hero". Hence the Great Wall becomes a must go spot for all expatriates. And we are going to become the true heroes. Around 80 residents joined the trip with us to conquer it. Some of us even reached the top of the mountain. Our management team thoughtfully prepared sports drinks, energy bar, sushi and bread along the way. Such care was highly welcomed and complimented by all guests. They say, the good service is from the heart.



Famous Actress Ms. Qin Lan Interviewed at Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City



On April 5, 2014, Chinese actress Ms. Qin Lan attended an event in Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City. She was greeted by the hotel General Manager, Mr. Kelvin Mah upon arrival.

Ms. Qin is known for her act in Princess Pearl Season 3 and Dream Link In 2011, she was named the ambassador of Holiday Inn Greater China. When she was asked why she likes Holiday Inn, she quoted, "Holiday Inn always provide me with a home away from home feeling."

Tangla Hotel Tianjin Awarded Best Wedding Hotel by LifeStyle Magazine

Tianjin, China- 24 March 2014 Tangla Hotel Tianjin in the 4th Annual China Hotel Awards event won the award of "The Best Wedding Hotel". This is the full affirmation of the hotel wedding venue and wedding services, and strengthens the hotel in the wedding industry reputation.

The LifeStyle China Hotel Awards Ceremony rewards Hotels, Resorts and other Hospitality partners that have brought an outstanding contribution to China's Hospitality Industry over the last year.



Announcement- Mr. Jose Garcia, Director of Beverage

We are so excited to welcome Mr. Jose Garcia join in Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel & The Lakeview, Tianjin – Marriott Executive Apartments as Director of Beverage, effective from Mar.31, 2014.

Jose came in China since July 2010, and worked at Food & Beverage department in Marriott and Starwood properties successively. The abundant knowledge in beverage and the fresh and active thought made his capability been shown at the beverage management and sales.

Let's welcome Mr. Jose Garcia to our team, and wish him every success in his new assignment at Marriott.



Godiva V.I.P. Deluxe Gift Tin 12pcs

To celebrate the legend of Lady Godiva, Godiva launched a Deluxe Gift Tin, exclusively for GODIVA VIPs in April 2014. Packaged with a vivid warm colour of painted collectible tin box, the gift tin is featured with the famous Lady Godiva riding her white horse and surrounded by herds of wild horses, includes 12 divine selections of delectable creations by the renowned Belgian Chocolatier, with the flavors of caramels, ganaches and pralines.



Wanda Vista Tianjin - Earth Hour 2014

Wanda Vista Tianjin mobilized all the hotel staff and unite its guests for "An Earth Hour for Blue Sky" Event 2014 on March 29, in response to calls for environmental conservation. The Blue Sky Project, a climate change awareness-building activity organized around the globe by the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF).



From 7:30pm to 8:30pm on March 29, Wanda Vista Tianjin turned off or dim exterior and non-essential interior lighting. The hotel team encourages guests to join them in a variety of energy-saving practices, including turning up the air conditioner one degree higher, abstaining from traveling by car and more.

The hotel also organized a complimentary green theme cocktail in Lobby Lounge to encourage the guests for a healthy lifestyle. During the green theme cocktail, the hotel's Lobby Lounge offered "green" menus designed around responsibly sourced organic ingredients served fresh or minimally cooked. And the hotel's live band "Soul Trio" performed a special low-carbon music concert and invited the guests to enjoy the unplugged performance in candlelight.

"We will continue with all the environmental conservation activities to promote and support environmental protection. Welcome to join us!" said Mr. Maged Louis, the General Manager of Wanda Vista Tianjin.



Qing Wang Fu now the only Tianjin member of SLH

Qing Wang Fu is now officially the only Tianjin member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH).

The SLH club offers an unrivalled selection of some of the world's finest small independent hotels. It is comprised of over 520 hotels from more than 70 countries. The diversity of the individual hotels and the varied experiences they offer the traveler is exceptional. The spirit of SLH is to offer customized services and unforgettable experiences.



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2013年12月15日，天津市宣布了新的机动车限行措施。同时宣布的还有从2014年3月1日开始实施的机动车限行措施。通过按车牌尾号实施限行，每个工作日能减少20%的车流量。

此举是为了减少机动车尾气对环境的污染，因为研究显示，16%的PM2.5污染源来自汽车尾气。天津的限行政策是模仿北京的模式，每天规定2个牌照尾号限行。为公平起见，限行尾号每三个月轮换一次。也就是说，如果你在第一个周期是周一限行，那么在下一个周期就是周二限行，以此类推。周一和周五限行的驾驶员可能会不太满意，因为这会影响他们借用周末规划三四天的短途游。

有些人为了规避限行打算再买一辆车。但是即便你买得起第二辆车，你也未必能获得牌照。因为限行措施施行之后，新车牌照要通过摇号的方式获得。参考北京多年的摇号经验，这个中签率并不高。

如果你违反了限行条例，每次会受到100元的罚款。而如果你遮挡号牌被抓到的话一次就会被扣满12分，吊销驾照12个月。这可不是个明智之举！

New Tianjin Traffic Restrictions

By David Wong

It all started with the December 15 announcement by the Tianjin government that new restrictions regarding issuance of future license plates would come into effect by midnight. This started a panic-buying trend for new cars. In addition to this announcement was new driving restrictions would come into effect on March 1, 2014 that would restrict the daily weekday volume by 20% according to car license numbers.

Since it was determined that 16% of the 2.5 particle pollution measurement is the result of emissions from cars, this was considered a quick fix to reduce the pollution and also help alleviate the traffic congestion.

The Tianjin traffic restrictions are modeled

after the rules established in Beijing. This makes sense since the two cities are so close, less than 100 kilometers between the two. The number of vehicles registered in Beijing is about 6 million and Tianjin has about half this number at about 3 million.

The system is actually quite simple, last digit of the license number determines when the vehicle is prohibited from driving within the city core from 7am to 7pm. In Tianjin, it is within the Wai Huan and in Beijing, the restriction is within the 5th Ring Road. The ten digits from 0-9 are grouped in pairs: 1 and 6, 2 and 7, 3 and 8, 4 and 9, 0 and 5.

As of March 1, 2014 the first group of numbers 1 and 6 is not allowed in the city centers



Remember the last digit of your license plate

Some people had complained that if they were restricted on driving every Monday or Friday, this would affect their planning for excursions on the weekend.

on Mondays. The second set 2 and 7 not allowed on Tuesdays and so on.

This order will rotate in order to make it fair for everyone. Some people had complained that if they were restricted on driving every Monday or Friday, this would affect their planning for excursions on the weekend. Some people plan to drive from work or picking up their children from schools on Fridays to get an early start on the weekend, but with the restriction, they would have to wait till after 7pm. The next rotation is scheduled for April 14, 2014 then July 14, 2014.

In Beijing, you can call 114 (Operator Information) and ask, "Which license number is restricted today?" Jin tian xian ji hao ? I tried this in Tianjin but no luck, you can call one of the international hotels; the Astor Hotel has this information.

The other restriction, is out-of-city plates (no matter what specific daily restriction) are not allowed to drive in the inner city boundaries during the weekday peak traffic times. These are set as 7am to 9am in the mornings and 4pm to 7pm in the evenings.

Some people avoid this situation by buying a second car, but even if you can afford this, you still need a license plate, which is now allocated by a lottery system. At last count there are over all a million applications and they only draw 15,000 new applications per month in Beijing. You can do the math; the chances are not good.

Others try to avoid the fines, which are 100rmb for each violation, by using only the side roads, but the placement of video cameras now cover almost every intersection. In the early days, drivers paid the 100rmb but fines are now applied every hour for each violation, so it can be very expensive.

The other method I have seen is drivers will cover part of their plate with a cd, if caught, they are fined 12 points and fines, with their license suspended for 12 months. Not a good idea.



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Incheon	Tianjin	KE805	0915	1010	Daily
Incheon	Tianjin	KE863	1235	1325	Daily
Tianjin	Incheon	KE806	1120	1410	Daily
Tianjin	Incheon	KE864	1440	1735	Daily

Operating period of flight KE863/KE864: 2014.5.26-2014.10.25

