

JIN

MAGAZINE

今日天津

TIANJIN TODAY 2014/09

中国的食品安全

Food  
Safety  
in China  
Is it really safe?

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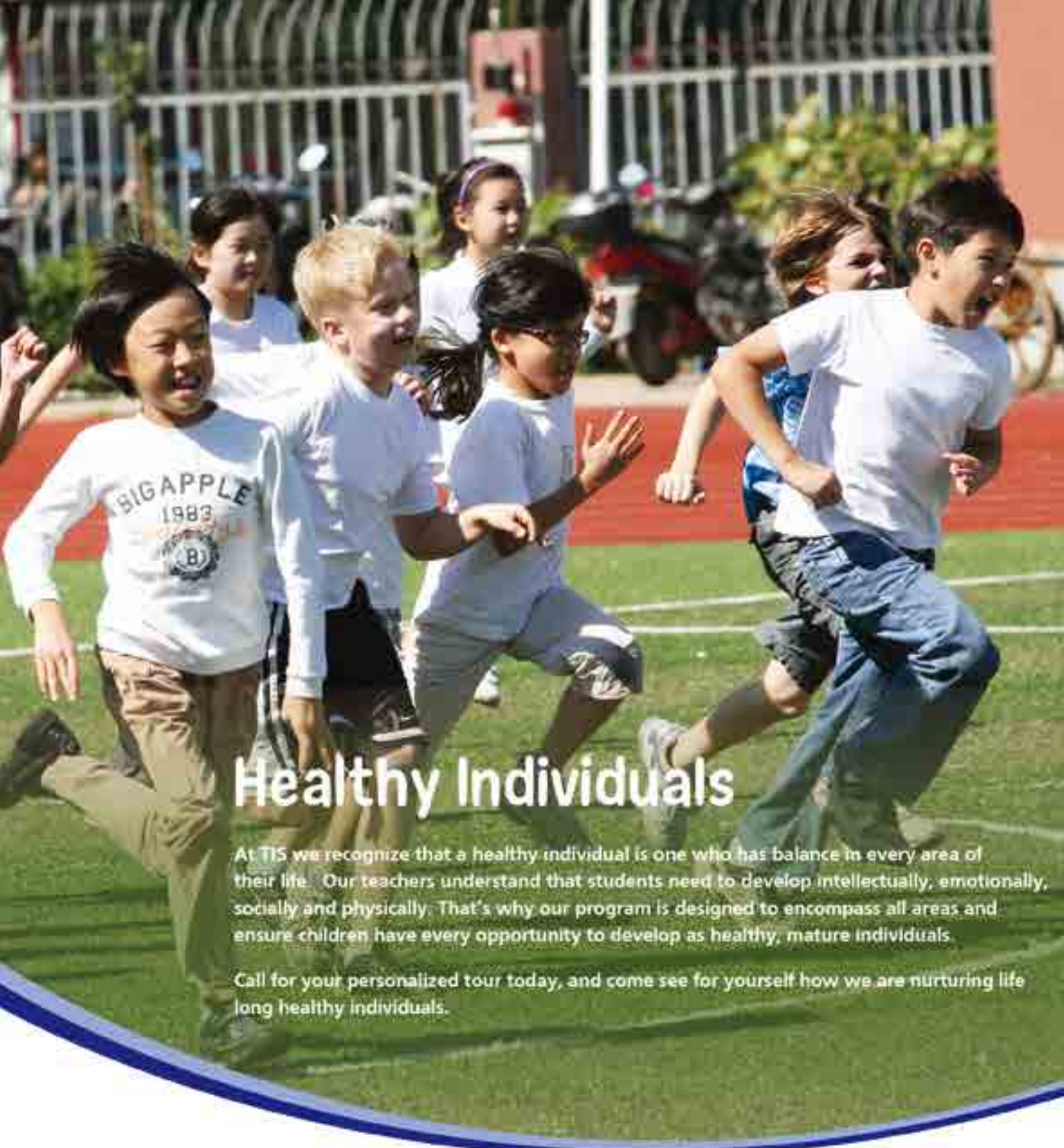


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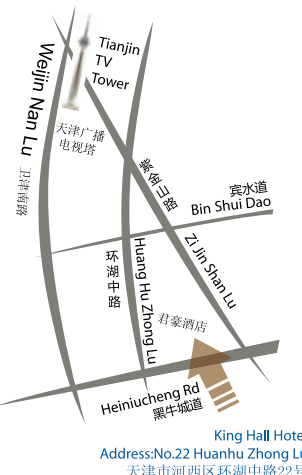
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The Astor Hotel Tianjin

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ARIVA  
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United Family Healthcare  
TNC



# Letter from the Editor

Students are back in school and summer vacations are over for another year until the Spring Festival break. Temperatures have started to come down since the official Chinese date for the end of summer called LiQiu立秋 which occurred this year on August 9. However there is still time to enjoy a splash at the waterpark as described in this month's travel article.

The Mid Autumn Festival is on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which is September 8th this year. Make sure you go out in the evening during this date to view the moon, which will be the largest of the year. Think of it as a Chinese Thanksgiving and celebrate with a moon cake, which is described in detail in this month's section: "Eating like a Tianjiner."

This month's feature article is about food safety in China and how the expats feel about this issue in Tianjin. The recent media stories of international fast food chains using expired meat products have made this a hot news item. Food is important to the Chinese culture and how does this affect attitudes and dining habits?

A large number of entrepreneurs, experts and government heads have been drawn from across the world to Tianjin as we host the World Economic Forum's 6th Annual Meeting of New Champions that runs from September 11-13. This is a very important annual event that is hosted by China and is alternately held in Tianjin and Dalian.

To keep in touch with Tianjin happenings on a regular basis, subscribe to the Jin Newsletter. Just scan the QR code or send an email to [editor@jinmagazine.com.cn](mailto:editor@jinmagazine.com.cn)

You will receive weekly updates of events and special promotions. Did you know that there is a special 2 for 1 beer promotion and there is plenty of other useful information, try it.

暑假结束，学生们又开学了。立秋以后，天气逐渐转凉，不过秋高气爽，正是游玩的好时节。本期的旅游文章，将会为你隆重介绍一个水上乐园。中秋节就要到了，别忘了在那重要的团圆时刻和家人一起赏月，品美食。这期的“做个天津卫”将为你详细讲述月饼的故事。本月的专题是关于食品安全问题。最近曝光的一连串食品安全丑闻，对社会和百姓都造成了不小的影响。中国人向来注重饮食，以食为天，这样的问题发生后，究竟会在群众的心里造成怎样的影响，我们不禁要问一问。9月11-13日，梅江会展中心将举办第六届新领军者年会，届时全球众多企业家、专家和政府首脑将聚集在一起探讨世界发展问题，不要错过。想获得更多即时信息？请随时关注我们的微信帐号，精彩内容将为您一一呈现。

Monica Wang



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以上荣誉顾问按姓名首字母顺序排列, 排列不分先后。

Taiwan Cooperative Bank opens first branch in Tianjin

台湾合作金库银行在津正式营业

日前, 在台湾拥有最多营业网点的商业银行——台湾合作金库银行在天津市开设分行, 并正式营业。据介绍, 天津分行是台湾合作金库银行继北京办事处、苏州分行、苏州高新支行之后在大陆地区设立的第4个分支机构, 初期营运资金6亿元人民币, 主要以台资企业和台胞所需金融服务为主, 今后还将逐步增加营业网点, 开展消费金融及财富管理业务。目前, 天津已累计批准设立台资企业2230家, 台商投资总额143.7亿美元。

Taiwan Cooperative Bank, the banking arm of Taiwan Cooperative Financial Holding Co., gained its first foothold in northern Chinese mainland by opening a branch in Tianjin recently. The bank said the Tianjin branch will target the large number of Taiwanese investors with facilities located in the Bohai Economic Rim that surrounds Tianjin and Beijing. Before moving into Tianjin, the bank set up a branch in Suzhou in December 2010 and established a sub-branch in the Chinese city's Gaoxin District in October 2013. With a task force already in place to establish the Fuzhou branch, the bank is gearing up to complete preparations to start up services in the southeastern Chinese city in six months. Taiwan Cooperative Bank said that around 3,000 Taiwanese investors currently operate in Fuzhou in a wide range of businesses, including in the electronics, optoelectronics and food sectors. Once its branch in Fuzhou opens, the bank will have a broad network that links outlets in northern, eastern and southern areas of mainland to provide better services to Taiwanese investors there, it said. That network and Taiwan Cooperative Bank's existing branch in Hong Kong will help boost the bank's visibility in the Greater China region, it said.

Baidu establishes internet developer start-up center In Tianjin

天津百度开发者创业中心落户红桥

天津百度开发者创业中心落户红桥区宝能创业中心, 该中心建成后, 不仅为天津市的互联网创业团队提供全方位优质服务, 还将吸引上下游企业入驻, 形成IT产业聚集效应, 进一步加速天津本地生活服务、电商等行业向移动互联网服务转型。

Chinese search engine company Baidu announced in Tianjin that the company's developer start-up center in the city has been formally established. This is Baidu's newest regional start-up center following those already operational in Chengdu and Xiamen. This new Tianjin Baidu developer start-up center is located in Hongqiao district. With an office area of over 3,000 square meters, it can accommodate more than 20 start-up teams. At the same time, the team recruitment will focus on O2O and hardware development sectors. The Tianjin developer start-up center can provide various resources and services, covering free office area, Baidu cloud platform resources, technical instruction, business audits, finance services, and legal services. In addition, developers will gain technical support from Baidu's Beijing headquarters, which will offer one-on-one guidance to the start-up teams. The vice president of Baidu said that Baidu will provide multi-level services and support to teams located in the developer start-up center.

Tianjin property brokers under probe following service fee hikes

天津房地产部分中介逆市上调服务费

尽管天津楼市处于低迷态势, 但部分房产中介却逆市集体上调服务费。从8月开始, 天津多家中介公司将二手房交易服务费从总房款的2%上调至3%。受此影响, 二手房市场买卖双方博弈加剧, 整体成交量下滑。同时, 一手房成交量也不容乐观。中指院天津分院提供的最新数据显示, 7月天津商品住宅新增供应量为92.36万平方米, 环比下降16.54%。截至7月31日, 全市商品住宅可售面积达2174.19万平方米, 库存压力升至近两年新高。

Real estate brokers in North China's Tianjin Municipality have raised service charges after regulators relaxed controls on pricing of their services, but the fee hike might be in violation of the anti-monopoly law. Following a recent price hike in real estate brokerage fees, the Tianjin Development and Reform Commission has initiated an anti-monopoly probe against the property brokers. Starting from August 1, the brokerage fee for secondhand home transactions in Tianjin has been raised to 3 percent of the total transaction value from the previous 2 percent. "Buyers and sellers used to pay 1 percent each of the transaction value [of a secondhand home], but now the buyer has to pay 2 percent and the seller has to pay 1 percent, respectively," Pan Kaifang, a Tianjin-based broker with Homelink Property told the reporter. Miao Weiqiang, a Tianjin-based real estate broker at Centaline Property, also confirmed the fee hike. A customer service representative of 5i5j, another major property service provider told that its Tianjin branch has taken the same decision as its peers, but the service charge for Beijing so far remains unchanged at around 2 to 2.2 percent of the total transaction value. The Tianjin Development and Reform Commission was not available for comment on this investigation. "The property brokers will face anti-monopoly charges if evidence shows that they had colluded to reach an agreement and manipulated the fees," a law professor at the Beijing-based University of International Business Economics told on condition of anonymity as the case is still under investigation. Given a gloomier market, it is more likely for service providers to reach a consensus on a higher service charge for mutual benefit, he said. China's once red-hot property market has lost some steam since early this year, weighing heavily on the performance of the real estate brokers. The brokers' decision to revise charges came after a decision by the National Development and Reform Commission to free price setting from government control since July 1.

Supercomputer in Tianjin serves 'smart city' construction

天河一号“精准”助建智慧城市

作为中国首台千万亿次超级计算机, “天河一号”构建了建筑信息大数据平台, 已经服务于其所在天津滨海新区的“智慧城市”建设。据介绍, 该建筑信息领域大数据平台通过对建筑信息建模, 实现对建筑物从规划、设计、建造到后期物业管理的全程数字化。

The assembly of China's next mega metropolis may leave architects and civil engineers feeling left out. Developers with China's Tianhe-1A, one of the world's fastest supercomputers, are tapping into the binary brain's higher functions, moving it beyond animation and Internet financing to help in the construction of new "smart cities". The Tianhe-1A can digitize the planning, designing, construction and property management of buildings in a city, said Meng Xiangfei, head of the applications department of the National Supercomputer Center in Tianjin. The costs and building materials, down to which types of cement and steel are needed, can be figured out through the computer's virtual designing software prior to the completion of a building, he said. "For example, big data-based modeling of a subway project can reduce construction costs by 10 to 20 percent," said Meng, adding the big data platform has been used in underground construction projects. With a sustained computing speed of 2,507 trillion calculations per second, in the future Tianhe-1A will have more use in urban planning, meteorological forecast, bio-medical and equipment production, said Meng. Tianhe-1A has had more than 600 users and is carrying out more than 1,000 computing tasks per day.

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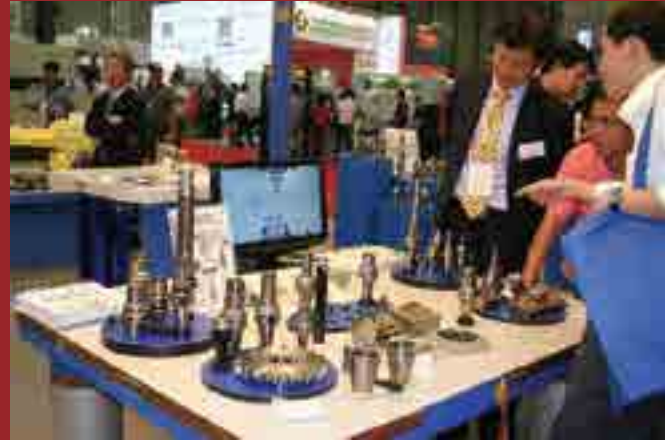
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09/03-05

2014 China(Tianjin) International Machinery Components and Parts Exhibition  
2014天津国际机械基础件及零部件展览会  
Tianjin BICEC, China  
天津滨海国际会展中心



09/03

Concert by Tolzer Knabenchor  
托尔策童声合唱团音乐会  
演出：德国托尔策童声合唱团  
19:30



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

09/03,04

Opera: Madame Curie  
歌剧《居里夫人》  
演出：波兰波罗的海国家歌剧院  
19:30



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

09/05,06

Poetry Recitation  
中国唐宋名篇音乐朗诵会  
演出：丁建华、乔榛、肖雄、李龙吟、  
吴京安、迪里拜尔、康庄、薛飞、濮存昕  
19:30



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

09/05

The Night of Grassland--Piano  
Concert by Sun Yu  
孙瑜钢琴艺术指导音乐会  
演出：孙瑜 王雷  
20:00



Western Shore Art Salon,  
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi  
Tel: 8622-23263505  
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

09/06

Peking Opera: Eight Hammers  
京剧《八大锤》  
演出：天津京剧院  
14:00



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

09/06

Piano Solo Recital by Dong  
Zhenhua  
献给那一位——旅奥青年钢琴家董振华  
钢琴独奏音乐会  
演出：董振华  
20:00  
Western Shore Art Salon,  
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi  
Tel: 8622-23263505  
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号



09/07,08

Children's Play: Wizard of Oz  
儿童剧《绿野仙踪》  
演出：北京丑小鸭卡通艺术团  
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

09/12

Vocalise--Double Bass Solo  
Concert by Cai Yan  
练声曲——蔡琰低音提琴独奏音乐会  
演出：蔡琰 段恋 甄沛森 韩冰  
20:00

Western Shore Art Salon,  
No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi  
Tel: 8622-23263505  
西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

09/13

Jazz Music  
恋恋情深——爵士乐专场  
演出：黄玫瑰爵士乐团  
20:00

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西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

09/13,14

Opera: Bluebeard's Castle  
歌剧《蓝胡子公爵的城堡》  
演出：天津音乐学院青年交响乐团  
19:30

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

09/20

Gu Qin Concert  
中国古琴十大名曲音乐会  
演出：新华雅集  
19:30

No.88, Jianshe Road, Heping  
Tel: 23320068  
和平区建设路88号

09/11-13

13TH China International Cultural Industries Fair  
2014 (第十三届) 中国国际化工展览会  
Tianjin BICEC, China  
天津滨海国际会展中心



09/26

Hayao Miyazaki Cartoon  
Works Concert  
风之物语——宫崎骏动漫主题音乐会  
演出：西岸新古典室内乐团·四季组合  
20:00

Western Shore Art Salon,  
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西岸艺术馆 河西区友谊北路3号

09/28

Piano Solo Concert  
by Sheng Yuan  
盛原钢琴独奏音乐会  
演奏：盛原  
19:30

No.88, Jianshe Road, Heping  
Tel: 23320068  
和平区建设路88号

09/30-10/02 & 10/04,05,06

Opera: War and Peace  
歌剧《战争与和平》  
演出：俄罗斯莫斯科国立斯坦尼斯拉  
夫斯基和涅米洛维奇-丹钦科音乐剧院  
19:30



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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# Food Safety in China Is it really safe?

by David Wong, Bryce Cristiano, and Carmen King



## 中国的食品安全

对很多第一次来中国对老外来说，食品安全都是他们很担心的一个问题。在出国之前，你有必要提前一个月咨询医生，注射必要的疫苗。

食物中毒是由被致病菌、病毒和寄生虫污染的不洁食物引起的。食物中毒有一定的潜伏期，从几小时到几天不等。食物中毒的症状包括呕吐、发烧、疼痛以及腹泻。如果中毒严重，食物中的细菌可能会被吸收到血液，侵蚀深层机体组织。

对抗食物中毒最好的方法就是预防。每个人的肠胃对食物的适应能力都不一样。以我自己来说，我不能吃太多辣，所以即使我喜欢川菜，我也会尽量少吃麻辣烫豆腐或麻辣火锅一类的食物。卫生环境不佳的地方也要少去。有些小饭馆用同一个盆洗菜和碗碟，各种食物就放在开放的环境里，也没有冷冻设备。低温是细菌最大的敌人，处理食物的安全环境通常都在2到6摄氏度。如果你参观食品厂，你会发现车间的温度都很低。

在家里，你也要注意食品安全。比如，不要在室温下解冻肉类，也不要反复冷冻肉类。有些超市对这个问题就不够重视。有一次，我在一个连锁超市买鸡翅，我发现有一部分鸡翅没有冻上。服务员不以为然，解释说，只要包装袋没破就没关系。虽然我试图跟他解释这其中的科学原理，但他显然没有听进去，依然故我。之后我再也没去过这家不懂得如何处理肉类的超市。

如果你打定主意要去尝试那些稀奇古怪的食物或是尝遍街边小吃，你最好提前做好免疫。不管你要去两周还是两年，你都应该先接种必要的疫苗。你一定不想整个旅途都在病床上度过。

有时候，旅途中的身体不适并不是由于疾病引起的，而是因为身体对新环境不适应。如果你刚来到中国，还对当地饮食难以适应，那我建议你到商场里的餐厅用餐并在饭后服用抗酸剂。我没见过哪个人刚来中国就整天吃路边摊。虽然吃是一件让人兴奋的事，但你总要给自己一段适应的时间。

街边小吃的卫生环境通常都不好，虽然小商贩们都是朴实的劳动人民，但是你也要有自己的判断，如果已经蟑螂满地爬了，你还是换个地方吧。

如果你坚持要品尝这些街边小吃，你不妨到滨江道附近的辽宁路小吃街。这里汇聚了许多小吃种类，最重要的是，这应该是天津最干净的路边摊了。

当然，心态很重要。虽然地沟油这样的事件屡见不鲜，但是如果你每次外出用餐都想着我可能会吃出虫子，那你还吃得下去吗？你最好这样想：我就算吃雀巢巧克力还可能吃出虫子呢，我不是还很喜欢吃吗？

今年七月，食品安全问题又一次进入公众视线，起因是上海福喜食品有限公司为肯德基必胜客等洋快餐品牌提供过期肉饼。有一种说法是，这是中国政府针对洋品牌从而能够扶植本土品牌。以上提到的洋品牌在中国以及世界范围内都有很大的影响力，所以人们对其安全性的期望更高。如果这些品牌出了问题，那将会更加吸引公众眼球，比起本土品牌，此类新闻更有价值。

丑闻发生后，这些快餐品牌迅速作出反应，宣布召回产品并采取更加严格的监

管措施和安全流程。政府也对涉事企业作出了处罚。希望这一事件的曝光能让餐饮企业采取更严格的食品安全标准，不辜负公众的信任。

那么外国人到底如何看待中国的食品安全问题呢？我们采访了来自不同国家，在中国生活时间不同的几个外国家庭。

他们的看法都大同小异，对中国的食品安全还是很放心的。他们并没有在中国有过严重的食物中毒。他们也像中国人一样在普通的餐馆用餐，也吃过路边摊。只不过有孩子的家庭会更加注意一些，大部分食物都从进口超市购买。以我自己为例，我在天津发生的三次食物中毒事件并不是发生在麻辣烫摊，而是因为吃过一个连锁洋快餐店的墨西哥风味披萨。

这次的福喜过期肉事件提醒人们，饱受诟病的本土餐饮比提供垃圾食品的洋快餐要健康多了。一些外国人草木皆兵的态度当然会吓坏从来没有来过中国的人。而我们这些已经在这里生活学习的人才了解最真实的情况。

中国的食品监督体系十分复杂，涉及许多部门，很多职能也是重叠的甚至是模糊不清的。而中国的耕地面积比其他国家也小很多，要养活庞大的人口必须使用大量化肥和杀虫剂才能保证产量。不过，现在市场上的有机蔬菜供应也在增加，只要你的经济能力允许，你能有更安全的选择。

随着人民生活水平的提高，人们对食品质量和安全的需求日益提升。任何食品问题都会引起全国人民和媒体的巨大关注。

但是，只有每次媒体曝光产生巨大反响的时候，餐饮企业才愿意改正错误实在是不应该。这时候，危害已经造成，媒体的曝光只能督促餐饮企业在日后严于律己。互联网也成为强有力的监督武器，网友们随时可以曝光不良商家的行为。

这些食品安全的问题会给我们带来哪些影响呢？可能一想到这个问题你就不觉得饿了！但是，我们在把自己饿死之前应该意识到，食品安全并不是中国特色，谁敢说来中国之前从来没吃坏过肚子？

完全安全的食物根本不存在。我们的世界早已被污染和改变了。就像人类社会一样，早已经不是自给自足的农业社会，我们现在吃进的食物大多带有人工的痕迹。水果在成熟之前就被摘下来，然后进行人工催熟，再摆到市场上去卖。肉类也被打入类固醇，让肉质更为丰满。人们总是谈论有机这个概念。好吧，我们可以说某片农田产出的都是有机蔬菜。但你能保证旁边的菜地也是种植有机蔬菜的吗？你能阻止水和风的流动吗？非有机菜地的农药不会随着地下水 and 风污染到有机菜地吗？

无论是食品法规还是食品业的从业人员都不是十全十美的。既然这种不完美是存在的，那么就会有食品安全问题。我们要做的就是利用我们的知识来尽量减少食品安全的风险和危害。对食品安全的担忧并不应该我们避免去某个地方的理由，留在自己的国家每天吃垃圾快餐可能死得更快。关键是要有理性思考的能力，这样无论你在生活中在哪里，你都能安全地享受生活，享受美食。

The issue with food cleanliness is an ever pressing dilemma for most foreigners who are coming to China for the first time. A great deal of expats may have experienced issues with acclimating to Chinese food and its preparation which could lead to illnesses. Before traveling, it's imperative to consult your doctor a month in advance to receive vaccinations and medication which are suited for the environment which you're traveling into. Probably the most notable illness in China for people consuming the food is typhoid. Typhoid is an illness not too prevalent in industrialized nations with one of the exceptions being China. Symptoms include rashes and rashes which can escalate into a cornucopia of terribly life threatening symptoms. If you experience a fever lasting over three days, it's best to contact your consulate for a list of doctors in your area.

Food poisoning and resulting diarrhea is not pleasant and is sometimes referred to as food borne illness. Food poisoning is any illness resulting from the consumption of contaminated food, pathogenic bacteria, viruses, or parasites that contaminate food, as

well as chemical or natural toxins such as poisonous mushrooms. Symptoms vary depending on the cause. The incubation period ranges from hours to days, depending on the cause and on how much was consumed. The incubation period tends to cause sufferers to not associate the symptoms with the item consumed, and so to cause sufferers to attribute the symptoms to stomach flu for example. Symptoms often include vomiting, fever, and aches, and may include diarrhea. Bouts of vomiting can be repeated, with an extended delay in between, because even if infected food was eliminated from the stomach in the first bout, microbes (if applicable) can have passed through the stomach into the intestine, attached to the cells lining the intestinal walls, and begun to multiply there. Some types of microbes stay in the intestine, some produce a toxin that is absorbed into the bloodstream, and some can directly invade deeper body tissues.

The best remedy is prevention. Everyone's tolerance of different foods is different. Although I love spicy Sichuan cuisine, I know that if I have too much, I will feel uncomfortable so I usually pass on the MaPo DouFu 麻婆豆腐 and MaLa HuoGuo (Hotpot) 麻辣火锅. You should also try to avoid eating at places with poor hygiene

practices, a dead giveaway are establishments that wash utensils in the same basin as food preparation and leave food supplies in the open and unrefrigerated, especially meats. Cold is the enemy of bacteria and safe handling of food is referred to as the cold chain, which is usually between 2 to 6 degrees Celsius. If you have visited food factories, you will notice that the preparation areas are at low temperatures. This

To this day, when I travel to Canada and ask my Chinese friends what I can bring back, the answer is milk powder.

becomes challenging when our summers are in the 30's with high humidity.

At home, do not thaw out meats at room temperature, either thaw it gradually in the refrigerator or cook meats at the frozen state and do not refreeze meats once they have been thawed. Read the labels on food products, many items indicate that once the sealed container



It is an imperative adventure to try all the street food in China.



has been opened, refrigeration is required. Some Chinese retail stores are not aware of this; I recently went to a local supermarket chain to buy some frozen chicken wings and noticed that part of the package was not completely frozen. The clerk said it was no problem; the portion not frozen was because it was piled in the middle of the freezer but since the plastic package was not opened, it was fine. I tried to explain the science of bacteria development when the chicken had thawed but obviously, he was not convinced and has done this dangerous practice in the past and more disheartening, will continue to do so in the future. I no longer buy at this store and switched to a store that understands how to handle and store meats properly.

The best method of prevention is cleanliness and the main ingredient is water. It is important to have potable water. The word potable came into English from the Late Latin "potabilis" meaning drinkable. Make sure that vegetables and fruit are washed thoroughly before eating. If you don't have bottled or filtered water, simply boiling the water will ensure that it is safe or potable. Do not use the

same cutting board or knife that you use for raw meats for fruits and vegetables, make sure you use separate ones and wash them separately. Better to be safe than sorry, with China high air pollution levels, food that is left in the open needs to be washed and cooked properly.

If you enjoy trying the most bizarre foods and eating from the street vendors, it's quite important that you don't miss that immunization before traveling. Regardless of whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, have a health check performed and give yourself two weeks to take any important vaccines. Introducing your body to a new cuisine in a foreign country is already tricky enough, without the risk of illnesses and disease. A vacation spent in bed or over a toilet is probably an experience plenty wasted. Not to mention the possibility of contracting a more life threatening illnesses rather than petty and inconvenient ones.

Despite the food borne illnesses which someone could contract, it's important to note that not all instances of falling ill during a trip may be a direct result of some sickness. In many cases there are problems with acclimating to

the local diet when traveling. Sometimes this acclimating can result in feels of unease or an irritable stomach. When we travel abroad it's not only a blow to our sleep schedule and our senses, but it also has an effect on the body. Since you're reading this in China, it's a bit too late to offer any real advice, but if you're still having a hard time adjusting to the local diet, just try to stick to restaurants in the mall and keep antacid nearby for after meals. I would be quite hard pressed to find a person who has come to China and decided from day one to indulge in all of the street food. While it's exciting to eat, it's probably for the best to wait a few days before trying to pass that kind of food through your body. The copious amount of oil present in street food isn't exactly something you should put into your face too often, let alone immediately off the plane.

Not that the food prepared by street vendors is necessarily prepared poorly, but the conditions in which the food is made are quite poor. The people who run these vendors are honest and hard working people who know their craft well, but as a consumer you should decide and use your better judgment to see how well kept these locations are. Even a place that looks a bit disheveled and grungy isn't dirty, but if there are cockroaches scurrying around then it may be good to find another place to eat. While Tianjin has some famous street foods, you're better off waiting a few days to acclimate to the cuisine or you have another option.

The second option you have for indulging in street food is a little side street of BinJiangDao called, LiaoNingLu. In case you're unfamiliar, BinJiangDao is the central shopping street of Tianjin where you can be treated to almost two kilometers worth of malls and various restaurants at the heart of the city. About halfway down BinJiangDao lies this tiny side street where vendors sell street food from small shop spaces. The food here is probably the cleanest street food in the city and offers the widest variety in such a small location.

If you can't stomach the street food, don't feel as though your experience of China will be diminished in anyway. There are plenty of restaurants from little holes in the wall to massive five story restaurants which exclusively prepare expensive duck. The culinary depth in China is like the Meridian Trench and you're just a heavy stone, plummeting down into the great mysteries of its rich culinary history. There's a world of food for you to explore and the restaurants offer a perfect location to get your feet wet. How you handle this adventure is just



Local market has everything to offer, safe and sound.



Some expats only consume imported food.

like the street food, it's all a matter of knowing your limits and comfort zone.

While there are issues of swill oil present in street food, the same can be said of some restaurants. It may be best to not go into a place with the mindset that you could be consuming what is essentially shoddily recycled garbage oil (as it may dampen your appetite), so try to put that in the back of your mind. In almost all factories they have a certain level of insects that are allowed to be in the food, so just try to imagine it like that. This probably isn't helping you feel much better until it's put into a different perspective. Despite the inevitability that you may at some point consume insects in your Nestle chocolate, how often does that deter you from eating chocolate? Probably never, because you settle it in your mind as it's a nominal statistical probability that you will consume insect bits. So try to go with the same mentality for eating food abroad. Can you end up eating swill oil? Sure. Will you? Probably not.

Before we continue dealing with food safety issues and expat perceptions, one should remember that the human body is a sensitive organism and no matter where you are from, it

needs to adjust to a new environment and new foods. Each location has its own local bacteria and your body needs to adjust. So if you are travelling to a new area, take care in gradually introducing new exotic foods and allow your body to slowly react to the change. It may be wise to take some basic foods that you are used to. Particularly for young children, whose immune systems are underdeveloped, you should take along some baby formula and canned foods that they are used to.

As China continues down the road of development, now becoming the second largest economy in the world and its citizens improving their disposable incomes, a higher quality of life becomes a higher priority. High on their list is food safety and especially for their children. Most families only have one child, which makes their concerns even more important as they focus their attention on the "Little Emperors".

Food safety in China came to the forefront again in July when the Shanghai Dragon TV group exposed the Shanghai Husi Food Company of supplying expired or rotten meat to their customers. These customers included

the high profile foreign international fast food distributors such as KFC Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, McDonalds, Subway and Starbucks.

The previous food scandal that caused such high media attention was the milk powder fiasco in 2008. The scandal broke on 16 July 2008, after sixteen infants in Gansu Province, who had been fed on milk powder produced by Shijiazhuang-based Sanlu Group. The timing of this scandal was just days before the opening of the 2008 Olympics so the nation was flooded with international media and China was the focus of reporting throughout the world. The government reaction was quick and exposure of the wrongdoings was very thorough. This media hype led to many consumers abandoning local brands and focusing on imports, so much so that Hong Kong authorities had to implement restrictions on mainland visitors for amounts that they could bring back to China. To this day, when I travel to Canada and ask my Chinese friends what I can bring back, the answer is milk powder.

One other argument is China targeting foreign brands, especially USA in an effort to prop up local brands? I don't think so. The



foreign brands mentioned are just the ones that are most popular and successful in China as well as worldwide. It is also regarded that because of their success and their extensive international locations, there is a higher expectation for their safety. There is also higher news value when you hear that they have violations than if the media reports that a local brand or food distributor with a similar violation.

By the end of 2013, there were 4,563 KFC restaurants and 1,264 Pizza Huts in Mainland China. McDonald's has said it plans to open another 300 stores in China by the end of 2014; there will be over 8000 McDonalds. Who are the most attracted customers to these outlets – children. The affected restaurants from this scandal were quick to announce that they have recalled product, implemented new inspection and safety procedures. The government has closed the offending supplier operation and alternate safe suppliers identified. The foreign fast food companies all confirmed a drop in sales following the media report. However if the continued lines at outlets in shopping malls are any indication, looks like it is business as usual. In fact, with this recent exposure, hopefully these fast food outlets and food distributors in general will implement a regiment of stronger food inspection standards of operations that meet customer expectations.

What do expatriate families feel about China's food safety? They cannot rely totally on taking their children to the familiar fast food outlets for pizza and hamburgers and chicken for every meal. To obtain a better view of the situation, we asked several expat families, long time residents and some newcomers how they felt about food safety issues, their experience and how they cope.

Jordi is a Catalanian with over 30 years of experience living in China and with his wife and two older boys, both born in China, shared his views. Jordi indicated that he has very few or no worries about the food safety in China. They do not eat out much but he is used to street foods and his business is related to students at universities and colleges, which means lunches and dinners in nearby local restaurants. He has not experienced any serious instances of food poisoning nor has his family. His two boys and his wife have never been hospitalized with problems in consuming local foods. Jordi has helped organize several outdoor events for his Catalanian and local Chinese friends, the most recent being a large barbecue during the World Cup games and no problems with local catering. No doubt the high consumption of



Food safety concern rose again due to the scandle of western fast food chains.

beer may have helped.

Peter is an Australian who travels extensively and has been in China for 18 months. Compared with many other countries that he has visited and lived, he feels very safe about the food standards in China. He has not had problems with food ailments and compared to some countries that are in the tropics where he resided in the past, China comes out ahead. Peter also found that there is a great variety of Chinese cuisine compared with other countries he has lived in and finds it a pleasure to experience new foods.

Jean Pierre is Canadian and has been here less than a year, he has two young kids, and the youngest one was just born here in July. JP indicated that they have had no bad experiences with food while living in China but with the two young children, he and his wife are extremely careful with consumption and shopping. Most of their meals are prepared at home. He purchases mostly imported food products such as baby formula and milk that is produced abroad. For supermarkets, he uses mostly outlets that are selling imported items. He pays special attention to meat products and

buys from establishments that specialize in imports such as Australian beef. Since his Chinese is limited, he needs to be able to communicate in English or French with the vendor and does not venture into local markets except for basic items. Overall Jean Pierre is happy with the food situation in China. He is confident that the food quality is safe and admits that having two young children requires him to pay more attention to food purchases and preparation. His lack of Chinese restricts his scope regarding shopping and means he needs to rely more on higher priced imports.

Mikhail Tillman, an adventurer, stated that he only experienced food poisoning on one occasion from street food but the rest of his time spent in China has been free of illness. He owes most of this to the fact that he doesn't indulge in western fast-food which even he sees as being much more dangerous than the local cuisine. While there are horror stories out there, we have to keep in mind that the problem is not systemic.

The experiences of most foreigners which we have interviewed have been pretty similar; it seems that most people experienced minimal trouble adjusting but there have been a few

instances during their stay in China where they have gotten sick. These instances are about as likely as they would be back at home. Speaking from personal experience, my friends and I have only gotten food poisoning on three occasions. All three of these occasions weren't from dingy MaLaTang joints, but from a certain Mexican pizza from a certain popular Western franchise bar which will go unnamed. Foreigners who come to China are usually not too deterred by the different conditions in which food is prepared because we feel as guests in a foreign land. How the people of the country decide to operate their businesses is wholly up to them, and what we consume as guests is entirely up to our choosing.

Many foreign students who eat out quite regularly have reported very few instances of becoming ill. Their praises of the taste of the food far outweighs any negativity that they may have. While students are aware of many food scandals, they feel as though it's very unlikely they will be subjected to a similar problem. Recent scandals with the Husi food supplier have gone to show that even the frequently criticized local food is exponentially healthier than western fast food which is both fattening and equally dangerous. This devil-may-care attitude exhibited by many foreigners may seem quite outstanding to people who have never spent a day in China. As expats who have spent ten years in China or just students here for a few semesters, we understand the problem first hand.

China's food regulations are complex, its monitoring system can be unresponsive, and the government departments that oversee and enforce policies have overlapping and often ambiguous duties. There are around ten national government departments that share the responsibility to ensure food safety. There are also numerous provincial and local agencies that monitor local food production and sales. Both the State Council and the departments under the State Council can issue regulations and directives concerning food.

Changes in China's food production system are generating an awareness of food safety problems. China's agricultural system is composed mostly of small land-holding farmers and subsistence agriculture. China, however, has less arable land than other nations and farmers intensively use fertilizer and pesticides to maintain high food production. There are more and more organic foods appearing in supermarkets, although more expensive, which may give you better peace of mind.

Food is sold in both open-air markets and

urban supermarkets, and by the late 1990s, China's farms were adapting to more specialized crop production as the local markets become more connected to the national and international markets. However, local authorities largely control food regulation enforcement unless the central government steps in. As urban consumers' incomes increase, the demand for quality food goods, safer production, and processed foods also increases, and urban residents and supermarkets attract more national and media attention to food problems.

**Instead of bigger is better and speed is super, moderation and reasonableness will go a long way in protecting many from food related trouble no matter where we live.**

It is too bad that it requires a public outcry before serious corrections are made. Sometimes the damage is already done but hopefully this exposure will result in future changes for the better. The Internet is also a strong tool and can provide rapid disbursement of information that net citizens can expose bad practices.

Where does all this food safety talk leave us? Probably a lot less hungry! However before we all start starving ourselves to death, we need to realize the answer to the question "food safety" isn't just a China issue. The truth is, it is a global issue. No expat can dare say before coming to China they never had a case of digestive tract trouble after eating. Not to mention the issue of food safety isn't limited to what we eat "out" but includes what we eat "in." Even if one attempted to buy everything and "cook at home", the truth is, most likely we didn't grow that food or manufacture all the ingredients in that special sauce. In recent years, overseas there have been cases of salmonella being present in bagged spinach, peanut butter and chicken. Not to mention the out breaks of mad cow disease causing beef recalls. The majority of these items were all intended for consumption at home. Therefore, issues with food safety permeate every area of life, and are frankly unavoidable.

Truly safe food is a panacea. It simply doesn't exist. All food which originates from this earth at this present time has been polluted, tainted, and altered. Food is like human society, simply not what it used to be. That's because the days of little house on the prairie where ma and pa along with the rest of the family worked day in and day out raising that animal they would later eat, along with plowing, planting, and picking that eatable delight are long gone. Few today if any have the time, money or circumstances to oversee and participate in their entire food production process. Thus what man has gained in technological advances has come at the price of "real food".

Today food is like everything else, fake and manufactured. Be it fruits that are picked before being ripe and then "artificially" ripened once they hit the store or meats that have been more pumped up with steroids than Arnold. Sure there are talks of organic this and organic that. However, one must yet again realize the fallacy to that fairy tale, after all while this farmer and this field are 100% organic, what about the one next to it? Will that farmer and that field's pesticides perfectly stay put? Shall there never be a windy day which may carry a little of that guy's pesticides to this guy's organic oasis as they are being sprayed? And what about that water which irrigates that non-organic field, how will it obediently moisten only the soil beneath it without at some point running off into the organic crop nearby? So too, lest not forget those alleged 100% organic foods could hardly ever make it to our local store or kitchen without roads. Yet, the very presence of roads leading to and from the organic field mean cars and trucks will be passing by, which this of course means toxic emissions and airborne containments can't be far off from our precious "organic" crop.

The bottom line is when it comes to food safety, the laws that govern it and the people involved in the modern "food chain" simply are not perfect. Where imperfection exists, problems will follow. Sooner or later there will be issues with food safety. The question isn't "if" but "when" along with "how" do we best minimize the risk. Instead of avoiding China or any other place on earth due to fear of food safety, use some good common sense and do the best you can. Obviously "Supersize Me" proved what we all should have known already, eating fast food all the time kills fast. Instead of bigger is better and speed is super, moderation and reasonableness will go a long way in protecting many from food related trouble no matter where we live.



## 情系泰达的德国企业家

Hubert来自德国，是大陆汽车系统天津工厂的经理。他所任职的“大陆”品牌已经深入到家庭的血液之中，因为他的大儿子也在德国的“大陆”公司工作。Hubert在天津泰达的工厂已经工作两年半了，他的另外两个儿子并没有跟他一起来天津，因为他们还在上学。

Hubert童年的时候喜欢阅读和体育，冬天喜欢滑雪，夏天喜欢游泳、踢足球或去健身房做运动。他家在巴伐利亚经营一个小农场，所以Hubert是一个地道的农村孩子，直到27岁到大陆公司之后才第一次坐飞机。

Hubert在慕尼黑科技大学学习电气工程并获得硕士学位。之后他进入了汽车行业工作，直至今日都没有跳过槽。大陆公司最初的名字是“西门子汽车”，之后几经更名和并购，成了“大陆”公司。在大陆工作的这些年，Hubert受过许多不同领域的培训，比如汽车经济、项目管理、企业管理、财务等。

在Hubert看来，他的海外工作经历也是一种培训，让他能够更好地与国际化的团队合作，增强文化交流和语言的能力，这对跨国企业是非常重要的。

大陆在天津的工厂成立于2005年，共有超过1400名员工，所有的管理层都是天津本地人，都有着超过10年的行业经验。这家工厂主要生产汽车电子配件，在中国所有的工厂中占有重要位置。可能大部分人都知道大陆是著名的轮胎品牌，但其实他们在汽车电子产品、动力火车和传输控制器方面也处于领先地位。

至于当初为什么选择泰达建厂，Hubert介绍说是因为泰达有出色的基础设施，便利的港口、高速公路、毗邻机场。再加上高速便捷的高铁线路，30多分钟便到达北京。

如果把天津和上海、香港这样的城市作比较，Hubert觉得，天津尤其是泰达开发区更像是家。泰达的交通没有那么拥挤，欧美品牌的商品也很多。最重要的是，这里的生活节奏比较悠闲。

从他第一次来天津到现在，天津的基础设施有了很大的提升。如果有一天他回国了，他一定会想念这里的朋友和同事，天津的各种美食以及有趣的中国文化。

Hubert对天津描述非常具有哲学性，他说：刚开始一切都觉得很新鲜，生活的时间久了，你反而会感到紧张，担心无法适应新生活。这种感觉可能无法随着年龄的增长而改变，但这也属于自我发展的一部分，就是所谓的活到老学到老。

# A Strong Bond to Continental

by David Wong

Hubert Limbrunner is the plant manager of Continental Automotive Systems (Tianjin) located in TEDA. Jin Magazine met with Hubert and asked him to give us his impressions of his life and work in Tianjin as he completes his posting here and returns to headquarters.

Hubert is German married with four boys aged 16-26. Continental is in the family blood as Hubert's oldest son is also working in Continental but in Germany. Hubert spent 3 1/2 years in Detroit where the youngest son was born and the other three were born in Germany. Hubert has spent 2 1/2 years in TEDA Tianjin alone since the other three sons are in the middle of their schooling and was not possible to move to Tianjin on a permanent basis but visited often.

Hubert's interests as a child were reading and sports. Skiing in wintertime, swimming in summertime, playing soccer and going to the gym. He has three brothers, of which Hubert is the oldest. His parents ran a small farm in Bavaria Germany, so he is really a farm boy and did not travel outside of Germany until he started to work for Continental. The first time he was on a plane was when he was 27 years

old. This is completely different to the young people of today. His father passed away when he was 30 years old and his mother is now 80 years old and still lives in Germany.

Hubert is an electrical engineer and graduated at the Technical University in



Hubert Limbrunner and TEDA Deputy Director, Ms. Carol CAI

Munich with a Master degree (back then it was not called a 'Masters degree', but Diploma).

He started immediately to work for the automotive industry and has always worked for the same company, Continental, which changed names from 'Siemens Automotive' to 'Siemens VDO' and then eventually becoming 'Continental' after several acquisitions and changes in ownership. There was a great deal of training during his time working for Continental, starting with engineering training on software development, tools that are used within the

Hubert stated that everything is new in the beginning and somehow even now with travelling a lot, he is always a bit nervous to find my way around and to settle into a new life.

automotive business, project management, assessments of behavior and personality, management training, finance training to mention a few.

Hubert also considers his work abroad as training as it really develops the way one



Mr. Limbrunner

works with international teams, cultural understanding and language skills, which is in today's global business very important. JIN asked Hubert about his two and a half years in Tianjin, his impressions and company experience in the China market.

There are over 20 Continental plants in China of which Tianjin is producing electronic components for cars. The Tianjin plant employs over 1400 employees and started operations in 2005 all managers are local Tianjiners with over 10 years experience in this plant because the plant was previously operated by Motorola. There are 19,000 employees within China and growing. Although the Continental headquarters is located in Shanghai, Tianjin is important, as it is the dedicated plant for several products, which are only produced here. 80% of the present workers come from downtown Tianjin so the company operates a series of shuttle busses and has plans to continue their expansion and hiring local Tianjiners.

Continental is probably best known for tires but they are leaders in Automotive Electronics, Powertrains and Transmission Controllers and Hydraulics.

www.continental-corporation.com

Why choose TEDA, as a location for Continental? The infrastructure is excellent, with a good port, excellent highways and a modern airport. The rail system is also exceptional with the high-speed connection to Beijing in less than 40 minutes and 300+ kmph connections to other major cities.

Hubert also expressed gratitude to TEDA and the local government who are very cooperative and helps with ensuring that government regulations are met and understanding what is required as well and benefits of local programs. The local officials are responsive and very efficient. Continental has plans for expanding in China; their goal is to achieve 30% of their sales in Asia and 17-20% for China. Labor costs are increasing in China compared to previous years but quality and productivity has improved.

JIN asked Hubert to compare Tianjin to other cities such as Shanghai and Hong Kong. During this discussion, it was apparent that Hubert regards TEDA as his home quite separate from Tianjin. He feels that TEDA is not a typical Chinese city, traffic is comfortable and many European and Western outlets at

the same time, if you need to be in the city, Tianjin and Beijing is only an hour away. The main advantage is, life in TEDA area is not so busy. Although is speaking with Hubert, he certainly is busy at work and because of the time difference; he is able to communicate with his headquarters late in the evening in Tianjin.

Hubert was quite philosophical when asked for his first impressions of Tianjin. Hubert stated that everything is new in the beginning and somehow even now with travelling a lot, he is always a bit nervous to find his way around and to settle into a new life. That will probably never change no matter how old he becomes, but he also thinks that this is part of developing oneself further. Development of a person never stops in his opinion, no matter how old somebody has already become.

During his initial visit, he was surprised how well the Tianjin area was already developed from its infrastructure (streets, shopping areas, trains, airports, etc.) as he had been to China 7 years before quite often and there was a lot of changes during this time to his Tianjin posting in 2011. He will definitely miss the friends and colleagues and the wide variety of food and sightseeing trips to experience the Chinese culture.

During his stay in Tianjin, his family visited quite often and two of his sons stayed for longer time periods. They would go for the usual sightseeing tours, like Great Wall, Forbidden City in Beijing and Shan Hai Guan in Qinhuangdao. In Tianjin, they liked to visit the Italian quarter or ancient streets. Hubert's wife especially enjoyed massages every time she came here. She even went to a boat trip to catch shrimp and fish at the port. Of course shopping was always an exciting experience and she enjoyed going to the Yang Huo Market, Tanggu foreign goods market.

Hubert's advice to newcomers to China: "Make the most of your time and experience China by travelling to other parts of China". Hubert has been to Xian, Guilin, Jilin and Shanghai to mention a few. These experiences have broadened his understanding of different cultures and broadened his outlook to work and life in general.

Finally Hubert said he was sad to leave Tianjin but looks forward to being with his family and has the opportunity to return in the future. He looks back at his time in Tianjin as a very positive experience.



## 服务都去哪儿了？

时至今日，我不知道还会有多少人记得“顾客至上，服务第一”这句引导全球服务行业的黄金法则。但就我的经历看来，这句话早已是形同虚设。于是我不禁要问，我们的服务到底都去哪儿了？

关于“大品牌，小服务”的案例，我们早已经屡见不鲜。而最近一次与7-11天津便利店的店员沟通后，更是让我对服务业的未来表示堪忧。谁该为低标准的服务买单？而谁又该对这样的服务负责？在我们谴责任何一个小店员之前，不要忘记那些雇佣这些店员的管理人员。领导、员工人人有责。问题出现的时候，我们想的应该是如何去解决它，而不是互相指责，推卸责任。

我暗访了天津的多家7-11便利店，发现的问题真是不少，其中一个有关客户服务的就是店中售卖的午餐盒。7-11的午餐便当采用统一大小的盒子，这样他们就可以保证所给定的食物分量既不会超出也不会不足。一个盒子，一勺菜，消费者永远都不会清楚这份盒饭的真正标准是什么。

除了部分管理不善，7-11的空间和管理线也都一直存在着漏洞。当然，在中国但凡跟线有关的，就没人让人省心过。而7-11服务上的欠缺就恰恰说明了它管理线上的不足。店铺的情况已经不容乐观，它们的办公问题更是让人堪忧。两位年轻的女士驻扎岗位，无所事事，甚至都不在乎会有记者的到访。面对这样的情况，一位男店员小心翼翼的告诉我，他们的老板是日本人，既不会讲中文也不会说英语，所以无论他们说什么，老板都不会知道。

天啊，想想看，一个公司的领导竟然不会说当地的语言，那你还指望他能带来什么管理工作啊？一切都是无稽之谈。于是，对于7-11员工的面无表情，无视到访，我也就释然了。

我打电话到7-11的北京公司想一探究竟，没曾想换来的却是一样的服务。差评！他们把我的电话推来推去，最后告诉我，他们也不知道天津公司的情况。而当我向他们询问天津总公司的电话时，得到的答复却是一概的不知道。

这次的采访至少证实了一点：但凡进驻中国的大品牌，服务质量总会有缩减。比如，赛百味在境外的集满兑换活动，在中国却从来没有实施；宝力豪的健身卡仅限办理地区使用；星巴克的北美星礼卡在中国地区不能使用，等等等等。

我不相信一个公司的领导层会真的不在乎自己品牌的形象与发展。不过现在我也只能企盼他们的良心可以足够强大，大到在看见自己的品牌在中国的发展之后，不至于被气的火冒三丈。或许我在想，大品牌是不是该做出一些调整，承担部分责任，实施地区制衡制度，然后提供统一的全球用户体验？你说呢？

# Big Brands Small Service

by Carmen King

Does anyone remember when "service", that is customer service actually existed? As one of little years in comparison with many, how is it that I am already finding myself asking where has all the customer service gone?

What was intended to be a business article on 7-11 (Seven Eleven) and its presence in Tianjin China must be morphed into a far more

necessary report on the small service associated with big brands. A recent encounter with five 7-11 office employees proves the point. Not to mention a number of other examples that will be sited.

Who's to blame for all this sub-par service? Before we totally blame the guy or gal on the front lines who seems to care less that a



Both the entry level employees and their bosses have responsibility

customer is present, let's not forget the big wigs who employ them. After all who was it that interviewed and hired these customer facing folks? Both the entry level employees and their bosses have responsibility. Responsibility that is, not just to point the finger and look the other way, but to fix the problem.

As to 7-11 over the past few months several stores throughout Tianjin were visited so as to observe operations. A big issue with customer service was found in the serving size of their very popular box lunches. Although it appears some 7-11's in Tianjin sometimes use a scale so as to ensure each portion size is neither under nor over weight, this seems random at best. Not to mention, imagine how a customer would feel if you chose for example scrambled eggs and tomatoes as one of your sides. The



portion was weighed and found to be underweight. How would the customer hope the serving would be brought up to par? Add some tomato, or dare we dream they would add some egg? How about neither. Just add a spoon full of the liquid oil mix all those tomatoes and

No surprise here, lines anywhere in China tend to be madness.

eggs are swimming in.

In addition to poor portion management, 7-11 stores seem to consistently have an issue with providing sufficient space for and management of lines. No surprise here, lines anywhere in China tend to be madness. Yet when a big brand in the convenience store industry like 7-11 comes to town, you would think they would know their way around providing proper lines and taking the "real" next



A pre-paid gift card brought from the states can't be used in China

customer not just the one who sticks their stuff in the face of the cashier as they cut in line. Still, no such fortune, 7-11's around Tianjin prove small on service as it relates to line control.

Outside of these onsite service issues with 7-11, things didn't get better when visiting their business office. Two young ladies were stationed in the lobby, at the time doing a whole lot of nothing. Yet, to ones utter shock they could care less about receiving a visit from a reporter for one of the largest media entities in Tianjin.

If their small service wasn't enough, another chap decided to join in having been eaves dropping on things from the side. No, no, not to help. Rather to add to the ridiculousness of the subpar service. He proceeded to confirm that no one at that office had any knowledge or ability to answer questions about the growth and brand of 7-11 in Tianjin. He then added, 'our boss here is Japanese and doesn't speak English or Chinese, so he wouldn't understand anything you are saying.'

Wow. Think about the implications about what went down here. Corporate employees have just told a reporter the following: 'no one here knows what is going with our brand and our top office leader can't even communicate in the local language.' Of course we all will struggle to believe any of that nonsense, but nonetheless this was their story and they were sticking to it. Not to mention it was all said with condescending gazes to round out the reception.

The only aid these three were prepared to give was a phone number to the 7-11 corporate office in Beijing. Fine, let's give them a ring and

see where this tale of 'big brand, small service' takes us. At a minimum, management at headquarters should be interested in how excellent a job the Tianjin office was doing with providing top notch customer service right?

As to the phone call to Beijing 7-11 corporate offices, it was about as good as the office visit. The lady who answered the call said at best she could transfer me to one of their marketing representatives. The story telling of terrible service and zero opportunity to collect solid facts at the Tianjin branch led to this person saying, 'sorry, I'm in Beijing, I have no idea what goes on in Tianjin'. At a minimum did she at least know of or have access to getting the contact information for her marketing counterparts in the Tianjin branch? Again the answer is, no.

Having talked to five different 7-11 office workers in two different offices, proved but one point, big brands often provide small service once they get to China. This is far from the first time such a phenomenon has been encountered here. For example, a Subway sandwich shop refused to provide "stamps" for the subs purchased which would eventually add up to a "free sub" despite the register they were using clearly displaying how many "stamps" should be given. When asked why? They simply said 'we don't do that here in China.'

A friend from the states brought a pre-paid gift card to a Starbucks in China. Nope sorry, those cards can't be used in China. Powerhouse Gym is a big brand in the health and fitness industry. Yet despite having numerous locations throughout China, they only provide "local" membership cards. The other gyms under the same brand are literally as if they are another

company. Zero inter-relationship. Your gym membership card can only be used at the gym you signed up at.

Similar stories of "little service" are too many to list. Big brands that expats perhaps have come to know and love back home seem to completely fall apart in terms of customer service when they hit China. One the most egregious cases occurred at Home Depot while trying to find a plumbing part. Countless workers were standing around doing absolutely nothing. Yet one after another replied with an emphatic "mei you", "mei you", "meiyou", (没有 méi yǒu) as it relates to having the part needed. Knowing there was no way in the world what they were saying was correct, with a little persistence and perusing around independently, the very part they all said "they

Having talked to five different 7-11 office workers in two different offices, proved but one point, big brands often provide small service once they get to China.

didn't have" was not only there but in huge quantity.

It is hard to believe, be it at 7-11 or any of these other big brands, at the corporate level they really don't care. Rather it is imagined most executives abroad would have a heart attack if they knew their precious brands were getting a good drag in the mud in China. Yet for now, the bottom line is painfully simple, big brands come to China and all too often small service is standard. Isn't it time these big brands take some responsibility and put some real checks and balances in place so as to deliver a consistent customer experience worldwide?



Big brand, small service



健康、安全和环境保护的难题如何解？

随着社会的进步，人们越来越关注健康和环境问题。我们应该怎么做才能实现健康、安全和环境的保护呢？我们是否愿意花更多的金钱、时间来推动科技发展，改善工作流程？如果你的回答是肯定的，那么为什么这个地球仍然承受着如此大的伤害呢？

当工业化的大火熊熊燃起，污染也应运而生。今天我们已经意识到重工业对环境的巨大破坏。更糟的是，能够强制企业加强污染治理的法律法规还欠缺。当治理污染的成本影响了企业的利润收益时，他们自然缺乏动力。

其实在中国并不缺少防止污染的法律法规，如果真的把这些法律法规落实到位，那么工业企业对环境的破坏完全可以控制在可接受的程度。但能否真正落实却是一个问号，因为企业总能想办法规避这些法律法规。

当你去考察一些制造企业，你会发现实际的情况和经理办公室里悬挂的安全环境合格证书极不相符。当工人们每月只有两天休息日，操作工在毫无保护措施的情况下操作大型机械，安全健康从何谈起？

除此之外，制造企业使用的化学原料对空气和生产线工人的健康都会产生极大的影响。工业有毒废料被倾倒入河流湖泊，进而污染我们的饮用水。

这些问题如何解决？现有的法律似乎只是被有选择地执行，精明的企业家总是懂得如何规避法规。社区是否也应该承担起宣传教育责任，无论是企业还是消费者都应该了解这其中的巨大危害？

当然还有一些更具新意的做法。为商品加贴环境保护认证标志是否对消费者更有吸引力？科研和开发机构是否也应该加快寻找成本更加低廉，可行性更高的治理污染方法？

传统的政府监督机制应该转型了。对于企业来说，没有什么方法比利基驱动更加有效。当企业找到一个即能改善污染状况同时不影响利润收益的方法，又有谁不愿意去实施呢？

The HSE Myth

By Moe ElGareeb

It seems that as our society matures we become more inclined to care for our well-being as well as that of others around us. But to what extent are we willing to go to protect our health, safety and environment (HSE)? Are we willing to pay more money or spend more time doing activities, advancing sciences and improving processes to do so? If we are then why is our world aching and hurting to the extent it is today? Let's go back and try to understand how our relationship with our bodies and planet became so tense.

It seems that nothing will move the world to self preservation more than pure profit hunting!



As the fires of industry rose and expanded, so did pollution. This gradually became an accepted result of industrialization. Today we easily see the destructive effect heavy manufacturing has on everything around us from air quality to water safety. Making things worse is the lack of strict regulations (or their enforcement) to force industries to spend the required money and time to alleviate the effects of their impact on the environment, or in more natural terms, "clean-up after themselves" which is of course synonymous to investors with less profits due to the cost of the clean-up.

So what exactly is the situation of health, safety and environment conditions and regulations applying to industrial facilities in China? Well, frankly the state has imposed laws that IF well applied and enforced would make sure that the nation's large industrial complex would restore its environment damage to a rather

acceptable level. That however is a very big IF as it seems that investors, industrialists and tycoons have ways to circumnavigate the regulations.

When you visit manufacturing facilities yourself you'd quickly reach the conclusion that there is very little to connect the numerous quality, health, safety and environment accomplishment certificates hung on the walls of general managers and CEOs with the reality you find on the production line. From workers who get two days of vacation per month when they are supposed to be getting eight to ten days (two weekend days per week) to operators who use heavy machinery without proper body protection leading to accidents that often lead to severe injury including amputations all the way to death.

And the list doesn't end there but goes on to include damage to the whole environment

with severely pollution chemicals and agents used in hi-tech manufacturing facilities that damage both the air quality and the health of the operators who populate the production line and then when dumped into nearby lakes and rivers, the disruptive effects spill into drinking water and fish destined for human consumption.

So what's the solution? Is it more rigorous enforcement of the quality, health, safety and environment laws that appear to be selectively applied and enforced and might in many cases be evaded by savvy entrepreneurs? Or is it the community's responsibility to conduct mass publicity campaigns aimed at both business and consumer circles to educate the general population of the risks associated with this destructive trend?

Or are there more innovative methods of enforcing health and environment preservation without the use of authority figures and with very limited policing? Would products marked with

environment protection logos appear more attractive to customers for example? Or shall the scientific research and development community be responsible for making HSE protocols less costly and more feasible to investors in high-impact industries?

It's definitely time to move forward from the traditional government supervised environment protection agency approach that has been proven elusive to enforce over-and-over again. It seems that nothing will move the world to self preservation more than pure profit hunting! Think about the changes a company would make to its supply chain and operation structure if they find that producing a product in a less polluting method will lead to either more sales or less costs, i.e. more net profit.

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



OVERALL FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT ENTERPRISE 外国投资企业的整体财税解决方案

ABOUT ZHONG HUI

Welcome to Tianjin. We hope you enjoy your time here. First of all, we want you to have a good understanding of what you might encounter here:  
欢迎来到天津投资，但你首先要面对以下风险：

- 1** You could be facing legal risks, if you do not understand Chinese tax policy.  
对税务政策不了解，面对未知的法律风险！
- 2** You could be facing financial risks, if you are unfamiliar with Chinese accounting standard.  
会计制度与国外不一致，面对财务风险！
- 3** You could be facing operating risks, if you do not have good communications with government and administrative offices.  
在中国这个人情社会如果不能与行政机关良好沟通，就会面临经营风险！
- 4** You could be required to pay a large number of income taxes, if you do not know how to transfer the profit abroad.  
企业盈利后，如何转移支付才不会面临高昂的所得税风险！

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中国规模最大的税务专业机构，拥有全国最高5A级资质！
- 2** The excellent understanding of the local policies, because we are a professional taxation agent that has operated in Tianjin for 14 years.  
我们是扎根天津14年的专业财税机构，深入了解本地政策！
- 3** The rich experiences of tax services, because we provide services to a larger number of customers, including Otis, Decathlon, Hutchison Whampoa and other international companies.  
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www.zhonghuitj.com





# EUROPEAN CHAMBER IN TIANJIN

## Discussion Forum on Tax Inspection

25 July, 2014

Experts from PwC shared their knowledge on tax inspection related with more than 20 member companies through this round table discussion, also worked out solutions for difficulties/problems they might encounter.



## Workshop: How to increase the engagement of your employee?

1 August, 2014



Founded in 1912, Dale Carnegie Training has evolved from one man's belief in the power of self-improvement to a performance-based training company with offices worldwide. They focus on giving people in business the opportunity to sharpen their skills and improve their performance in order to build positive, steady, and profitable results.

Employee engagement is one of the Dale Carnegie Training Programs, Dr. Zhao spent the whole afternoon sharing his insights on how to increase the engagement of employees, 40 managers participated this workshop and expressed satisfaction with the training they received.



The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin Chapter  
中国欧盟商会天津分会

41F, The Executive Center, Tianjin World Financial Center, 2 Dagubei Lu, Heping District, Tianjin 300020.  
天津市和平区大沽北路2号天津环球金融中心41层德事商务中心, 邮政编码300020  
Tel: +86 (22) 58307608 Email: tianjin@european-chamber.com.cn Website: www.european-chamber.com.cn



European Chamber  
中国欧盟商会

## 2014 European Business Gala Dinner "Castle Night"

**Ticket Purchasing**  
022-58307608  
tianjin@european-chamber.com.cn  
Tickets will not be available at door.

**Date & Time**  
Friday  
October 17th, 2014  
18:30-23:15

**Entry Fee**  
Member: rmb 500 (rmb 4500 for corporate table with 10 seats).  
Non-member: rmb 600 (rmb 5500 for corporate table with 10 seats).

**Venue**  
2nd Floor, Grand Ball Room  
The Ritz-Carlton Tianjin  
No.187 Dagubei Road, Heping District, Tianjin

Come to the European Chamber "Castle Night" Gala Dinner, where we take you on a first-class journey to Europe in one night. Meet friends and enjoy an evening of delicious European cuisine, wines, classic cool cocktails, great entertainment and prizes! We look forward to welcoming you to what will surely be a night to remember!





**Past Events**

**Tianjin Monthly Executive Breakfast Briefing**  
7:15AM – 9:00AM, Thursday, July 17th –The St. Regis Tianjin

On July 17th morning, nearly 40 guests attended AmCham China Tianjin's monthly breakfast briefing at the St. Regis Tianjin with Fantastic food. The guest speaker for this month was Justin A. Franke, General Manager of Boeing Tianjin Composites Co. Ltd. He discussed his thoughts on the global aerospace market, recent developments of Boeing in China and the strategy of Boeing Tianjin Composite Co., LTD. Afterwards, attendees submitted series questions that related to aerospace industry.



**Upcoming Events**

**AmCham China Tianjin 2014 Fall Classic Golf Tournament**  
10:00 AM – 8:30 PM, Saturday, September 27  
King Key Golf Country Club

**Tianjin Monthly Executive Breakfast Briefing**  
7:15-9:00 AM, Thursday, September 18 – (TBD)

Address: Room2918,Exchange Tower 2, No. 189 Nanjing Rd, Heping District, Tianjin 300051

TEL: 86-22-23185075 Contact person: Amanda He amandahe@amchamchina.org Website: www.amchamchina.org

**ISETAN Binhai New Area Shop**  
**SPECIAL INFORMATION**

**ISETAN**  
www.isetan-tianjin.com

**Bunt 板特** Japanese Restaurant

陶壹松茸汤 Matsutake mushroom soup in earthenware teapot RMB 128	日式松茸牛肉火锅 Matsutake mushroom Beef Sukiyaki RMB 888	松茸海鲜陶板烧 Matsutake mushroom & Seafood grilled on earthenware utensils RMB 178
泰松茸鳗鱼寿司饭 Steamed Matsutake mushroom & Eel Sushi RMB 128	特选牛松茸日式烤牛排 Japanese Style Choice Beef Steak with Matsutake mushroom RMB 238	松茸鳗鱼鸡蛋锅 Matsutake mushroom & Eel dressed with Egg RMB 158
松茸清蒸花蛤 Matsutake mushroom & Steamed Clam RMB 138	4F TEL: 022-6554-1036 11:30-14:30 (LO: 13:30) 17:30-22:00 (LO: 21:00)	松茸牛肉裙带菜与冬面/荞麦面 Matsutake mushroom & Beef wakame udon noodles/Soba RMB 128

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Order any set meal, get Soy Milk Pudding or Fresh Fruit Jelly or Garden Salad for free.  
点任意一款套餐, 赠豆奶布丁、鲜果啫喱、花园沙拉任选其一

Grilled Chicken Tight Fillet 黑胡椒鸡腿排 ¥68	Summer Eggplants Lasagna 意式肉酱芝士焗应季茄子 ¥58
Hawaii Pineapple Pizza 夏威夷菠萝披萨 ¥68	Derniglace Hamburger Steak 汉堡牛扒 ¥78
Sausage & Rice Omelets 香肠蛋包饭 ¥58	Chicken Taniyaki kebab 日式照烧鸡肉串 ¥68
Stir-Fried Rice w/ Samba Sauce 三巴酱海鲜炒饭 ¥58	Spaghetti w/ Shrimp & Herbed Vegetables 鲜虾蔬菜面 ¥68

4F TEL: 022-6554-1037 11:00-22:00 (LO: 21:00)

**September Special**  
**九月推荐**

**78元**  
**Roasted Lamb**

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

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





**Past Events**

**German Ambassador visited Tianjin**

22.07.2014

On July 22 2014, the German Ambassador Michael Clauss paid his first visit to Tianjin. Accompanied by a delegation from the German Embassy as well as the Regional Manager of the German Chamber Dr. Bjoern Lindemann, he met with Mayor Huang Xingguo and Vice Mayor Ren Xuefeng to talk about current developments and the deepening of the Sino-German cooperation in Tianjin. He also visited the Tianjin Economic and Technological Development Area (TEDA) as well as the Airbus factory in the Tianjin Airport Economic Area.



**Upcoming Events**

**Save the date: 5th German Chamber Oktoberfest**

11.10.2014

The Oktoberfest Festival in Munich has been held since 1810 and is one of the most famous events in Germany as well as the world's largest folk festival. Come and join us for the Oktoberfest celebrations in Tianjin and enjoy the Bavarian buffet dinner and a free flow of the freshly-brewed original Oktoberfest beer at the 3 Kronen 1308 Brauhaus beer tent. The German Festival Band will entertain with classic Oktoberfest songs throughout the night.



Special rates for all employees of German Chamber member companies and for groups of more than 5 people. Information and reservation: 022 8787 9249 / tianjin@bj.china.ahk.de / http://china.ahk.de/chamber/events/north-china/tianjin

**Save the date: 2nd German Chamber Soccer Cup Tianjin**

19.10.2014

The German Chamber of Commerce invites you to the 2nd German Chamber Soccer Cup Tianjin on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the sports field of the International School Tianjin (IST). After the successful tournament last year we look forward to the 2nd competition in Tianjin, making this a permanent and memorable event for players, spectators and the German-Chinese community. This family event includes 10 teams competing for the German Chamber Cup, a kids program with bouncy castle, playground and soccer area, a "Torwand"-Shooting (target shooting) with many prizes, food&drinks inclusive German BBQ and beer, and much more. The tournament starts at 9.30am.



**More upcoming Events**

September 24, 2014: Kammerstammtisch Tianjin, Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus Tianjin

German Chamber Tianjin Office: Room 1502, Global Center, No. 309 Nanjing Road, Nankai District, Tianjin 300073  
Tel./Fax: +86 22 8787 9249  
Email: tianjin@bj.china.ahk.de Website: www.china.ahk.de



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HRCLUB website: <http://www.tj-hrclub.org>





# Hopeland International Kindergarten

Happy life in the kindergarten



The new semester is coming! At the end of last semester Hopeland International Kindergarten invited all the students' parents to attend the School Open Day, to witness their child's growth through a performance. At the event, in a rich and colorful program, the children performed many different songs in English and in Chinese and danced. The whole event made everyone feel that our children had really learned a lot at kindergarten.

Throughout last semester, the kindergarten organized a variety of exciting activities such as face painting, a spring outing, a sports' meeting and celebrated a children's day. Over the last year of study, every child had grown and learned so much! Now with the new semester fast approaching, we wish all our children a happy and healthy start to the year.



又一个新的学期开始啦，我们每个小朋友都长大了，都将升入新的班级中。在上个学期末我们各个班级都邀请家长参加了教学开放活动，展示了孩子们在园的成长和收获。活动当天孩子们给爸爸妈妈们展示了中英文歌曲、儿歌、舞蹈律动、戏剧表演等许多丰富的节目，使我们每一个人都深切地感受到孩子们在幼稚园里学到了很多，也收获了很多。

幼稚园还为孩子们组织了各种丰富多彩的活动，如脸谱彩绘日、春游、运动会、六一儿童节……，通过这一学期的幼稚园学习生活，不仅开拓了孩子们的眼界，还增长了许多知识，每个孩子都得到了很大的成长！马上就要开学啦，祝华兰国际所有宝宝们开学顺利，开心快乐地度过每一天！



## 鼎泰豐

Handmade moon cakes for Mid-Autumn Day  
Old tradition and handicraft  
Tasty and artistic

Purely natural  
No additives (antioxidant, pigment, preservative)  
Inheriting traditional Chinese handicraft  
To serve it hot

Celebrate Mid-Autumn Day with Lord of Rabbit



### WMSVVO / 鼎泰豐

Peking Duck (with special recipe) (Peking Duck)  
Spring rolls (with special recipe)  
Dumplings (with special recipe)  
Noodles (with special recipe)  
Rabbit (with special recipe)  
For more information, please contact us at:  
Tel: 022-2813 8138  
Fax: 022-2813 1038



The moon cake and dumplings are created by Chinese folk artists

Bin Shan Dao Store: No. 16 Binshan Dao, Hainan Intersection of Binshan Dao and Zhen Shan Road  
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Tel: 022-2813 8138  
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中寶





## 别让作业成为负担

作业，短短一词却承载了众多年轻人的心酸。做，是通往成功的大道；不做，则是实现梦想的捷径。自古，鱼和熊掌不可兼得，而站在十字路口的年轻人，更是迷茫，不知所措。关于家庭作业要写多少，一直是困扰教育工作者、家长乃至学生的大问题。家庭作业不仅是一个词汇，更是一种生活片段。

家庭作业与学校密不可分。只要学生去上课，就会有没完没了的作业。尤其在中国，情况更为严重。不少电影场景中都有过对中国学生做作业“盛况”的描述，学生们往往痛不欲生，忍无可忍。从东方到西方，尽管作业问题一直被视为众矢之的，但无论如何，它都不会消失。毕竟，课时有限，而那些课堂上无法解决的问题只能留给课后。

当中国学生面临越来越多压力的时候，很多家长都选择将孩子送去技能学校。但如此一来，这些学生在走出校门之后往往面临的最严峻的问题就是，因为学历不够而被社会淘汰。你要知道，很少有企业在面对招聘人员的时候不考虑他们的学历资本。

作业过多极有可能会击垮一颗年轻脆弱的心。不可否认有的时候压力会带来动力，但过多的压力通常会带来无法想象的后果，尤其是在中国，精神摧残往往是青少年成长发育的致命伤害。中国学生的辛苦不仅体现在繁重的课业压力下，更体现在那一个个鼓胀的好似炸药包一样的双肩背以及那一份份没油水的食堂饭菜上。我听到很多学生在抱怨，作业太多，没时间吃饭。为什么会这样？身体永远是革命的本钱，你不吃吃喝好，你又凭什么，拿什么去学好？

最后我们要关心的应该是中国学生的睡眠问题。科学研究早已证明，睡眠与健康紧密相连。但是当把他们大把的时间和精力投在学习之中时，他们还有多少是留给自己的成长呢？

关于写作业的问题，谁都没有一个好的解决办法。家长一方面希望孩子可以少些压力，但另一方面他们又都希望自己的孩子能成龙成凤。好在中国的教育体制正在慢慢的改革，不少学校已经对布置作业做出改变。而我认为，好的解决办法不妨是老师给定一个合理的作业量，然后由学生自己掌握完成时间。让每个人都参与“教育的生命周期”，及时发现问题、解决问题，以此来正确的引导和影响年轻人。作业改革，亟待解决。

# Heavy Homework

by Carmen King



Sleep relates to health

Really though from east to west, many will say no matter how troublesome, homework simply can't go away.

**H**omework, one simple word that represents so very much and the mere mention of it strikes fear in youngsters the world over. With it one might learn, progress, and succeed. Without it one might, well, our adolescent admirers likely have a list longer than their arm of what could be done with all that after school time!

Still, the issue of homework and how much to give is a real one. It is one that has plagued educators, parents and students alike for some time. The word homework appears to be used as early as the 1600's. However, homework itself has perhaps existed as long as learning. In that anything not taught or finished at the time and reserved to be done later, that is "work at home" could well be called homework. So we see the need for the word "homework" not only in language vocabulary, but also in life in general.

In recent years, homework really has come to be inseparably linked with school. Namely a student goes to class, teacher gives homework. Especially in China, really in the east including Korean and Japan, academic pressure directly related to homework has become an epidemic. Stories of students staying up into the wee hours of the night to hand copy Chinese characters or memorize ancient poetry is hardly uncommon. Many a movie has even portrayed the miserable tale of homework stricken students who simply can't take it anymore!

Really though from east to west, many will say no matter how troublesome, homework simply can't go away. After all there is the practical issue of class only being so long, a teacher only being able to teach so much, and everything else, well, give it as home work.

In recent years homework in China has become so heavy that some children simply cannot keep up. There are some families who decide to have the child pass on high school all together, as that is when homework workloads tend to peak. Some of such children go on to trade schools which seemingly have much more "reasonable" class loads and even lead some students to learning a practical skill. However,

culturally speaking these "drop-outs" face social stress and even exclusion from some jobs reserved for the "highly-educated".

Outside of possibly leading to some children simply no longer attending class, homework overload can also wreak havoc on the sensitive developing minds and bodies of those young in years. Without dispute some pressure is good, however too much pressure can turn the smartest of youths into a deep dark spiral of depression and introversion. As homework backs up, a student falls behind, it is likely the criticism of teachers and parents will follow, especially in China. This mental assault may lead to a life time of social issues related to "not being smart enough", or always "falling behind". These are terrible labels for anyone adolescent to be given. Yet, such might occur to do homework overdose.

As to the physical trouble of heavy homework in China look no further than the bodies of the average Chinese child. Thin is common, little to zero muscle of any sort is even more common. Yet day in and day out these feeble frames carry pounds of dead weight in the form of books in their back packs. With no

Let everyone involved in the "educational lifecycle" thoroughly and promptly re-evaluate the role they play in guiding, directing and influencing young ones.

time for running, exercising, or anything other than read, write, memorize, read, write, memorize, these children are becoming extremely underdeveloped in terms of aerobic and anaerobic ability. The only thing it seems measured by teacher and parent alike is the child's test score.

Next on our list of heavy homework trouble is diet and nutrition. Let's not even begin to discuss the issue of school lunches and any issue related to their lack of quality or nutrition. The even bigger bully stealing these kids breakfast, lunch and dinner is homework. Many a story exists of "no time to eat" just keep studying. For those that do eat, all too often it is the saga of "eat fast". This typically includes fat laden fast food or growth stunting over processed packaged



Carry pounds of books in children's back packs

garbage mistakenly labeled as edible.

Last but not least of heavy homework related tragedies comes in the area of sleep. If mental stress, lack of exercise, and malnutrition weren't enough of an attack on these adolescents we have what is possibly the proverbial "straw that breaks the camels back", sleep debt. Science and research have long since proven the importance of sleep as it relates to health. A healthy mind and body starts with getting enough sleep. Never is this truer than during the formative years of childhood. Not to mention as children hit the chemical and hormonal roller coaster known as puberty, a good night's sleep cannot be over emphasized.

Before jumping to conclusions or going to the opposite extreme, this article is hardly suggesting no homework is the perfect solution. It is very possible homework can not be entirely avoided. Likewise teachers are perhaps not entirely to blame either for the heavy homework epidemic. In fact, teachers often have little to no power in the grand scheme of things. The actual source of all this academic pressure is related to globalization and society as a whole becoming a cesspool of competition. Parents with hopes that their child is the next Chairman or CEO of a company or country tend to start putting the pressure on their children very early on.

When talking with a few local parents about the heavy homework issue, surprisingly several stated they believed in the value of heavy homework. It was even noted the latest changes from the top down include prohibiting teachers during years 1-3 from giving homework.

Teachers of years 4-6 can give only a "reasonable amount of homework". Comments include, lessening "homework" doesn't in any way lessen "test work". This is like saying you don't have to run, just walk. However in order to make it to the finish line on time, you absolutely must run. Since the end tests children have to take and pass haven't changed, a reduction in homework doesn't really do much to set them up to succeed. Even if teachers don't demand all that extra study via heavy homework, the need to "pass that final exam" will leave children needing to study overtime anyway.

Thus a better solution would perhaps involve calculated adjustments in both homework and test workloads. After all, as one parent noted no homework isn't necessary a great thing either. Children being given a reasonable amount of homework and finishing it on their own produces a sense of accomplishment. Surely this is a good thing for young ones to have. As with so many things in life, when it comes to homework we need to avoid extremes. Neither too much nor too little homework will get the job done. One thing is for sure, there are tales of terror as it relates to children not being able to handle heavy homework. The worse of such include suicide. While such cases may not be many, even one is too many. Let everyone involved in the "educational lifecycle" thoroughly and promptly re-evaluate the role they play in guiding, directing and influencing young ones. Now is the time to trade heavy homework for reasonable homework.



## 可爱的中国警察

在美国，每天与荷枪实弹、气势汹汹的警察过招是普通人的必修课。但我们是在中国，情况完全不同。天津的警察更加像是社区里助人为乐的好叔叔。抓坏人的时候手里最多只握着一根警棍，而不是能把人打成碎片的重型武器。美国的警察不管执行怎样的任务都是武装到牙齿的，让人感觉他们不是社区守护者而是占领军。遇到疑似“恐怖分子”，他们会立刻将其扑倒制伏，不给任何反抗机会。当然，他们有一个十分正义的借口——“自由”。在维护“自由”的名义下，他们不需要任何搜查证也无需遵守任何行为规范。

不过在这篇文章里我要说的是另一种警察。他们身穿蓝色制服，和蔼可亲，和我们老家的那些警察完全不同。但对于我们老外来讲，我们也不敢掉以轻心，随便和他们开玩笑。可能因为我们是外国人，他们会随时把我们叫住问话。尽管如此，来中国之前，我从没见过这么多和颜悦色的警察。美国的警察即使和平民交手也随时做好拔枪射击的准备，但中国的警察大多数时间都像普通人一样平易近人。

警察应该是做什么的？就是为了完成任务上街开罚单或者用一些荒唐可笑的规定来吓唬市民吗？他们的职责应该是服务和保护市民，调解纠纷，维护正义，为公众服务。为市民指路应该不是什么难事，毕竟不是每个警察都是福尔摩斯那样的神探。他们的职责是维护秩序，保护市民安全，同时也应该是社区的普通一员。

在天津的外国社区里，不管你来自哪里，大家都一致认为中国的警察不像自己国家的警察那样可怕和多疑。中国人对自己的警察有不同看法。他们对警察没有惧怕的感觉，甚至不觉得他们有执法者的威严。发生大案要案当然需要大批警员整装出动，但一般的小纠纷就不必如此了。中国的警察都喜欢大事化小，小事化无，而老百姓也赞同这样的做法。

美国人有一点鸡毛蒜皮的事情都喜欢把警察叫来，比如邻居把音乐的声音开得太大。他们不愿意花半分钟自己走过去和邻居理论，而是把一群带枪的人叫来。这不仅令人反感，还是对警力的浪费。而中国人从来不怕自己解决麻烦。很多时候，街上发生的口角过一会儿就自己平息了，用不着警察出马。不让警察介入可以避免很多麻烦，但是有时候事态升级的时候却没有警察出面控制局面。所以，很多时候我们会问：“警察哪去了？”

现在在美国，人们经常抱怨警察的出警时间太长。虽然警察数量不少，但是对于普通的报警，他们似乎并不热心。但是中国的警察对老百姓的报案总是能做出及时和适当的反应。这一点很让我欣赏，虽然他们也会遭受普通百姓的诟病，但也要比其他国家的警察更容易相处。

# How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the JingCha

By Bryce Cristiano



A policeman is helping a man with direction.

Dealing with hot-headed and overbearing police officers is a daily occurrence, one which many of us would enjoy taking and casting into the bowels of Mount Doom to be entirely eviscerated. That is the case at least, in America. We're not in America though, and if you have happened to purchase this magazine under the illusion that you're in the States and that kind Chinese clerk who took your money is just some immigrant trying to attain the idyllic life of the American Dream, it's about time for a rain check. With that, welcome to China. The food is cheap, the rise of capitalism in the cities is awe-inspiring, and the police behave as though it's the 1950s. Or at least they act like that strange media version of the 1950s wherein the police were the kind help of the community who would chase down criminals with a baton rather than blasting them to itsy-bitsy little bits with military grade weaponry over a minor dispute.

I would hate to jump to such a hyperbolic comparison and run the risk of drawing up Godwin's Law on Nazi Analogies within the second paragraph of this article by relating the American police force with the Schutzstaffel. It is quite unmanageable to break that comparison though when the American police force has been so heavily armed with military grade toys from our stint in the Middle-East that they feel less like a neighborhood watch and more like an occupying army. Marching in lockstep, clad in stark black armor, shouting incomprehensible

gibberish, bludgeoning down anyone who fits the nebulous mold of "terrorist", and humiliating P.O.W. "civilians". On the bright-side though (for those who drink the proverbial Kool-Aid), that's not authoritarian rule, it's FREEDOM! Freedom that won't wait around for a search warrant or bother looking into their rule books. They want to freedom you like there's no tomorrow, so who needs that search warrant and probable cause, the law is on their side because they are the law.

Alas though, this article is not entirely about the militarization of the American police and their disregard for civilian life, it's about the cheery police officers which I described earlier. Adorning light blue clothing and generally holding a kind demeanor, it's still challenging to not see them as a threat when you first arrive in China due to the wonderful police most of us have back at home. It might simply be because we're foreigners but these police officers will stop you just to have a chat. Despite my negative outlook on the American law-enforcement, I do understand that a lot of them are generally good individuals who feel they're doing the right thing. That being said, I've never met so many consistently kind police officers in my entire life before coming to China. Whereas American police perceive every confrontation with a civilian as a chance for a shoot-out (rightly so in most neighborhoods), the police in China are quite lenient and act as casual as a bystander.

After coming to terms that the police in China are generally good people, I had to ask myself, "If these officers aren't out keeping up on ticket quotas and terrorising the general populace over ridiculous laws, what do they do?" It's outstanding that such an error in reasoning would befall me that I couldn't even recall what police officers were supposed to do. A few things came to mind though; serve and protect, arbitration, acting as authority witness, and being a public servant. Now you won't ever see me snapping my fingers and ordering an American or Chinese police officer to dust my shoes or bring me a glass of water, but they are supposed to act as servants to the public's needs. Do you need road directions, suggestions for restaurants in the area, general inquiries, or have a crime to report? That's what police officers are for. We shouldn't act as though they're too busy to point out a building or a good place to grab some grub, since most of them aren't hardened detectives trying to solve the case of the Maltese Falcon. They're supposed to be average community members who hold some semblance of authority to

maintain order and keep civilians safe.

The diverse group of people you can meet from all over the world in China only serve to show that the police in this country are far less of a threat and general nuisance than the police in America, Canada, and England. While I can't personally speak on the severity of the police militarization in Canada and England, there's a general consensus that the police in those



A policeman is escorting an old man cross the road.

**The citizens do not have any fear of the authorities here and often feel they are not even much of a driving force for justice.**

countries are significantly less sensitive and demonize the public substantially.

Whereas the interaction between foreigners and Chinese police is generally positive, the Chinese citizens hold a slightly different view. The citizens do not have any fear of the authorities here and often feel they are not even much of a driving force for justice. While it obviously takes an organized police force to bust large criminal elements or to investigate crimes; the same does not hold true for small disputes on the streets. The police here generally avoid small disputes between two people and most of the time onlookers seem to prefer this.

In America, people won't hesitate to call the police to your home if you're playing music too loud. Let me put that in perspective. Your neighbor will not take the time to go over and ask

you to turn down your music, but they will

call up people with guns to come talk to you. They send people with guns to your house over something that would have taken them thirty seconds to do. This is not only irrational and intimidating, but it's also a monumental waste of time for the police and taxpayer money. Chinese people though have no qualms with solving issues on their own, for better or for worse. It's great to see people handling their

own problems up until the point where it becomes Chinese "Frontier Justice". If someone is having a spat on the street, the authorities usually let the situation unfold on its own. This is great because it allows people to resolve their issues together without having to involve authorities and unwanted paper work. On the downside though, this means when a situation escalates, the police aren't present. There are many news stories where I'm left wondering, "Where are the police?" Is it the fault of the involved parties, the bystanders, or the police? Much of the blame could be in either the inactivity of the police or just bystander apathy.

Where as the police seem to be easily accessible in urban China, the same can't be said for American police. There are constant remarks about the ineffectivity of police response time in America when it comes to the common citizen. Despite a greater police presence, when you get down to it, the root of the issue lies in bystander apathy (the police act similarly as the bystanders in some instances). Despite the issues of general apathy and being absent during some instances, the police in China appear to be relatively helpful for the general populace and are not viewed as a severe authoritarian force. I've come to appreciate their presence, or lack thereof, in some instances. Despite their criticisms, they're much easier to live with than authorities in other nations.



**画说天津** 一桥一景话“之最”（之一）

在未实施《瞧·桥》这个拍摄专题前，我对天津市究竟有几条河、有多少座桥真是说不清，自踏上了寻桥之路后，才令我眼界大开，兴奋异常，毫不夸张地说，天津跨河桥可谓“一桥一景、一桥一画”。不论是依然健在的百岁老桥，还是不满周岁的新生代，如此内涵丰富的历史跨越，无疑展现出天津建桥史的一幅“清明上河图”。

沿河浏览多姿多彩的桥梁真是一种独特的享受，当你全部丈量 and 阅读完157座桥后，自然会在脑子里生成一系列有关桥的比对和排序，于是“之最”两个字犹如机选的按键，一旦触发便跳跃出一连串闪亮的字符，它们争先恐后地述说着自己的身世，论证着成为“之最”的理由。

**现存最早的铁桥——金汤桥**

确切地说金汤桥不仅是天津，也是国内仅存的三跨平转式开启的钢结构桥梁。这座桥的历史要追溯到清雍正八年(1730)，时任青州运同天津分司的五品大员孟衍周到天津上任后，见海河水势汹涌，无论是过往行人还是盐务往来，都必须乘摆渡过河，且极不安全，便决定将自己的薪俸捐出来修建一座浮桥，即由13条木船联缀而成，桥面铺设活动木板，初名盐关浮桥，由于该桥离东门较近，也称东浮桥，同时老百姓为感恩孟衍周的善举，更习惯称之为“孟公桥”。直到1905年，为方便电车通行此处，由津海关道与奥租界、意租界领事署、比利时电车公司合资在此新建全长76.4米、用电力启动的永久性钢桥，次年11月21日举行了竣工通车典礼。建桥耗银二十万两，桥面宽10米，其中4米为单轨电车道，新桥启用后，沿岸一时车水马龙，繁华异常，由于建造者认为该桥坚固无比，始以“金汤”命名。

然而，这座桥真正出名，还是因为平津战役，当时中国人民解放军集中5个军、22个师约34万人组成东西两个突击集团对天津守敌发起总攻，并于1949年1月15日凌晨5时，在金汤桥上胜利会师，从此这座桥有了更特殊的意义。

2003年在海河开发改造中，对金汤桥进行了移位加固整容，并重新修筑加高了桥墩，恢复了原有的开启功能，提高了通航标准。如今已成为集观光旅游和纪念天津解放于一体的步行桥，天津老百姓宠爱有加地称呼其为“玻璃桥”。



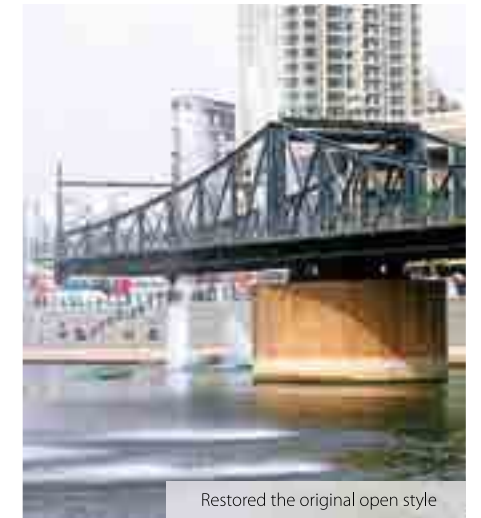
Old Jintang Bridge



Fishing on the ice



Jintang Bridge Enveloped in Darkness



Restored the original open style



Cargo ship passing through the old Jintang bridge

# Jintang Bridge

by Zhang Jian

## —The Earliest Iron Bridge in China

**T**o be honest, I must admit I knew little about the rivers and bridges of Tianjin before I started my photography project LOOK BRIDGE. But ever since I hit the road to look for bridges, I have been in a state of shock. It is no exaggeration to state that Tianjin has some wonderful bridges and each bridge is like a beautiful painting. It does not matter if the bridge is a hundred years old or brand new, they always have something to contribute to the history of Tianjin.

It was a special experience walking along the riverside to view the 157 bridges. You can see the similarities and differences in construction and muse about why this bridge has this or that. It seemed as if each bridge was telling me its story and boasting about how fabulous they really are..

Jintang Bridge, was the earliest iron bridge in Tianjin and the only existing three bay steel structured swing bridge in China. It was an eye witness to the liberation of Tianjin. The history of Old Jintang Bridge dates back to 1730. At this time a five grade clerk, named Meng Yanzhou, took office in Tianjin. He found the ferries across the river were unsafe so he donated his salary to build a floating bridge. The floating bridge was made of 13 wooden

boats covered with planks. At first, the bridge was called the Salt Pass Floating Bridge, but at its east gate it was also known as the East Floating Bridge. To commemorate Meng's kindness, the ordinary people preferred to call it the Meng Bridge. In 1905, Tianjin Customs, the Consular Offices and Belgium Trolley Company created a joint venture to build a new bridge that was capable of carrying trams. The new bridge was 76.4 meters in length and 10 meters wide. It had four meter tram tracks and cost the equivalent of about 40 million yuan in today's prices. The new Jintang Bridge was finished on November 21, 1906. As the builders considered the bridge was firm and steady, they gave it the name "Jin Tang".

Jintang Bridge is famous as it witnessed the joining of the two main forces of the Chinese People's Liberation Army during the Beiping-Tianjin Campaign. This was a

crucial step in the city's liberation on Jan. 15, 1949. Thus the Jintang Bridge has special meaning to the Tianjin people and the people of China.

In 2013, the government implemented the Haihe River renovation project. The authorities conducted repair work on the Jintang Bridge. They restored the original open style and improved its traffic flow. Now, the Jintang Bridge with its beautiful scenery is worth a visit. The Jintang Bridge is now known as the "Glass Bridge" by the people of Tianjin.



Tourists on the bridge





## 月饼市场何去何从

又到了每年月饼满天飞的日子了。对于中秋节吃月饼的习俗你一定有所了解，但是今年对许多行业和个人来说，中秋节会有些不一样。

中国人在送礼上讲究慷慨大气，礼物越贵重越能显示诚意。所以，人们购买价格昂贵的月饼很少是为了自己享用，而大多是为了送礼。这些礼盒必须有华丽的外包装，很多时候包装的成本要远高于礼品本身的价值。我就曾收到过一盒月饼，可惜是我最讨厌的红豆和绿豆馅。但是因为包装盒太过精美而让我无法就这么把月饼扔掉。

月饼的种类也是每年都有创新。但是有调查显示，中国人并不喜欢那些稀奇古怪的口味，他们还是更钟情于传统口味。在新加坡，有一个月饼品牌推出猫山王口味月饼。我一头雾水，难道是猫肉月饼？那也太残忍了吧！后来我才知道，猫山王就是榴莲。你会把这样的月饼送给朋友吗？

人们总是抱怨月饼价格虚高，但坏消息是，今年的价格因为原材料价格上涨的原因还要增长25%。恐怕今年你的送礼名单又要精简了。

那么，到底是什么因素让今年的月饼市场发生了巨大的变化呢？从今年开始，中国政府实施了一系列打击腐败和铺张浪费的政策，这其中当然也包括公费购买月饼送礼。

据中国媒体的报道，中国正在进行一场“反四风”的运动，严厉打击政府官员出入高档餐饮场所和公款送礼的风气。天价月饼还有存在的市场空间吗？

# Reach for the Moon (cakes)

by Paula Taylor

**M**ooncake season has come around again, or to give it its correct name, the Mid-Autumn Festival. Nothing untoward about that, after all mooncake season comes around every year doesn't it? You probably know the legends surrounding this festival, however this year there has been an extremely big change which will affect all sorts of businesses and all sorts of people. Before we go into that, let us just remind ourselves of a few things about mooncakes – these are not your usual facts so do please read on.

Incidentally, traditionally a round shape is highly desirable in Chinese culture as it symbolizes completeness and unity, and this is why families would share moon cakes, with the head of the house cutting one up and handing it family members.

If you have Chinese friends you will know that they are generous to a fault and love to give gifts, the more extravagant, the better. It is this generous spirit that means they rarely buy mooncakes for themselves, they buy them to give to others. Chinese gifts have to come beautifully wrapped and presented.



Moon cake has become a luxurious gift.



The prices of the actual cakes have risen by up to 25% with suppliers quoting the high price of raw ingredients.

Again as we know, sometimes the contents of the beautiful boxes fail to live up to the promise displayed from the exterior. Sometimes the boxes are treasured more than the gift. There is a whole new business which has sprung up around this festival, that of... you guessed it, the boxes. Some of these things really are works of art. I was given a gift set last year, I was fairly relaxed about the mooncakes as they were comprised of the very things I hate, red and green bean and date fillings, but I could not bear to throw away the box and bag that they came in. The more famous the brand name, obviously the more expensive the mooncakes, and the more spectacular the boxes. I am sure that they must commission famous artists to produce them. So around about this time you will see people carrying mooncake gift sets in various forms and their appearance will give you an indication of the recipient's status and the giver's attitude/affection for said recipient. My friends generally bought one or two from the local shop and gave them to me in a plastic bag! The gift set I received last year was a fluke, an unexpected surprise that came via work. I knew that if I suggested to Mary that she should get me something of similar quality next time she wanted to give me mooncakes, she would suddenly become inexplicably temporarily unable to hear me. Although it must be said she had no

compunction about eating my expensive ones, whilst her inedible cheap ones lay on the table for weeks until I finally thought I would either have to use them as a lethal weapon (they were rock hard), or charge them rent. Don't worry though, from my set I gave Mary the ones I really couldn't stomach, I never did get the thinking behind using beans as a dessert.

Weird and wonderful alternative fillings have been cropping up, although surveys have shown that the Chinese public do not like these strange fancy cakes, they actually prefer the traditional fillings. At a hotel in Singapore they are selling "12cm snowskin mooncakes bursting with rich and creamy Mao Shan Wang (mountain cat king)". I had no idea what mountain cat king was and I was really relieved to find out that no mountain cat kings were harmed in the making of these mooncakes. In fact this is a variety of ...wait for it...durian!! I don't know about you but I can't stomach this smelly fruit. Once that stench wafts up my nostrils, my stomach, entirely against my will, comes up to meet my mouth. Well these babies are on sale at \$50 apiece. Another type is Snowskin with Korean Black Garlic. I don't know what I would make of these, but as they are filled with sweet, smooth mung bean paste enclosing a potent piece of Korean black garlic (purported to

possess 10 times the antioxidant qualities of raw garlic)...I don't think you will be popular if you give this kind to your friends.

People are starting to complain that mooncakes have never been cheap but now they are being asked to pay even more this year. The prices of the actual cakes have risen by up to 25% with suppliers quoting the high price of raw ingredients. So really you would only give the eye wateringly expensive gift sets to important people.

Now to discuss the thing that has changed the face of mooncake giving forever, in some circles that is. There is a huge government drive to root out corruption, and this has taken in the area of giving inappropriately expensive gifts, including the much mentioned mooncake gift sets. You see, some sets are not really cakes at all, but gold and silver pieces in the shape of mooncakes and stamped with lucky animals. I found this information about some that were on sale in Guangzhou: - The silver "mooncakes" come in two sizes 50 grams and 100 grams and are priced at RMB 850 and RMB 1,700 respectively for each box of two pieces. How about if you want to give this type of gift to someone really, really important? Well don't bother giving them the paltry silver ones, how about splashing out, on the gold ones? You can choose from 10

grams to 50 grams. Of course the price depends on the up-to-date gold price of gold, plus RMB 200 processing fee for each one, but as a guide, one 50-gram gold mooncake will likely be priced at over RMB 20,000 – of course you can't be a cheapskate and give just one. This gift is an investment after all, and comes with a warranty via the state-issued certificates accompanying them. So you can see why the Government is keen to crack down on this type of gift, particularly if State funds are being used to buy them, hence Government officials, the Chinese public will be glad to know, are being watched.

This is an extract from China.org.cn. "China is in the middle of a campaign to exorcise undesirable work styles such as formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance. Early this month, the Communist Party of China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection issued a circular urging officials to refrain from luxurious banquets and gift-giving ahead of the Mid-Autumn Festival and the National Day holidays from Oct. 1 to 7. Luxurious mooncakes, referring to those sold at more than 1,000 yuan a box and often bought as gifts, have become a main target". Don't you think this gives the festival this year added interest?



Moon cakes are best sellers in supermarkets before Mid-autumn Day





## 养宠物的二三事

关于中国有多少猫，有多少狗，官方没有一个准确的统计数字。尽管法律要求主人要为自己的宠物进行登记注册，但真正实施这项规定的，只有少数人而已。

在对待宠物的态度上，中西方的观点大不相同。在西方，人们习惯将宠物视为同伴或家庭的一部分。在中国，你甚至找不到一个动物福利机构（除了仅有的少数国外基金会在中国的分支。其中亚洲动物基金在去年救下了500只即将被运往肉类市场的狗，免除了它们被屠杀的命运。）一直以来，中国人都有吃狗肉猫肉的传统，他们觉得吃狗肉能够抵御寒冷。

中国有一些贩卖狗肉的特色餐馆，大大的招牌让人一目了然。不过最令人发指的，是居然会有一些狗贩子专门偷家庭饲养的宠物，然后宰杀烹饪，再拿给客人吃。

庆幸的是，随着中国的不断发展和人均可支配收入的不断提高，已经有越来越多的家庭开始养宠物。最明显的变化，就是超市里宠物专柜的食品变得越来越多样化。还有一个明显的增长，那就是宠物医院。这些医院不仅提供宠物食品和用品，还可以提供相应的宠物治疗。

在中国某些大城市里养大型犬是不被允许的。所谓大型犬，是指那些肩膀超过40cm的狗。我过去养过一只斑点狗，尽管我已经给她注册过了，但在2009年国家下大力度打击大型宠物犬的时候，我也只能等到半夜才敢将她带出去。据说那个时期，不断出现大型犬伤人的事件。关于这问题上，说到底法律也没有一个明确的解决办法。比如，我们都知道养大型犬有限制，但落实到一个具体的尺寸，谁都说不出个所以然来。

将宠物带到中国，通常需要一个检疫认证。时间大概是2-4周。大多数的中国酒店都是不允许携带宠物的，所以旅行之前，最好查清楚你携带宠物是否可行。如果你有计划在中国养宠物，那么请一定保证你有足够的时间和情感来给予它。文化态度的不同，造就了对待宠物观念的不同。在中国，你可以将宠物关进笼子或交给朋友照看，但在北美，这种事情绝不会发生。所以，在中国我当然也不会推荐你养大型犬，毕竟地域有限而禁令又太多，在中国养宠物，还是要三思而后行。

# Owning a Pet in Tianjin

by David Wong

There are no official statistics for the number of dogs or cats in Tianjin or for that matter in China. Although it is a legal requirement for dog owners to register their

pets, very few do, so official numbers are unavailable, although I have seen estimates of 130 million dogs and I imagine similar number of cats. Further estimates of about 10 million



One breed of dragon li

If you are planning to bring a pet from your home country into China, there is a quarantine requirement, which is 2-4 weeks, depending upon the country of origin.



Dragon Li Chinese Cat

pets in Beijing and Tianjin are not unreasonable.

Attitudes towards pets in China are generally not the same as Western thoughts, where pets are regarded as companions and part of the family. You won't find animal rights or animal welfare groups in China (with the exception of a few foreign foundations with branches in China – one is AnimalsAsia who made headlines last year when they intercepted a truckload of over 500 dogs bound for the meat market and rescued them from being butchered.) The fact is China has traditionally eaten dog and cat meat and believes that dog meat is especially good to help withstand the cold of winter.

There are still restaurants that serve dog meat 狗肉 Gou Rou and some have prominent signs on the street and if not, it can be found as a menu item. The big controversy is dog nappers stealing family pets acquire some of this meat.

However, as China develops and consumers have more disposable incomes, pets are being adopted and I see more families having dogs and cats. This is also becoming a big commercial business as one can see the supermarket section for dog and cat foods growing. Many foreign labels such as Whiskas, Pedigree and Purina are readily available, either

imported directly or manufactured in China.

There is also noticeable growth of Pet Hospitals that sell petfood and supplies and provide medical treatment. I was able to locate a couple in Tianjin but I am sure that there are many others. Naughty Pet Hospital at the basement level of the Renaissance Hotel on FaDa Street in TEDA <http://wanpi.teda.cn> and Tianjin Chang Jiang Animal Hospital in Nankai District <http://cjcwy.cn> However when I called to confirm their services, the staff has limited English so you will need to someone with Chinese capabilities to help you. The hospital hours are 8am to 8pm everyday.

There are also big dog restrictions within large cities defined as dogs that are over 40cm or 16 inches at the shoulder. I used to have a Dalmatian, DeeDee my other "daughter" for 16 years. She was considered a large dog and although she was registered, there was a period in 2009 when there was a crackdown on large dogs and police were capturing and putting down big dogs that they could find, which meant that I had to walk her after midnight. These crackdowns happen when there is an outbreak of rabies or human fatalities from dog bites. The laws are not very clear on this and even local authorities could not confirm what is allowed.

For example, I was told that there is a law against owning large dogs within the city center, when I asked what is considered the boundary, it was not clear. I was also told that it is best to register the dog when it is a puppy in order to ensure that it is within the "big dog" restriction. When I asked what happens when the puppy grows up and I have to renew the registration, the comical response was: "Don't take the dog with you to reregister, just take the paperwork." The other comment was if I plan to have a big dog, make sure I have an acceptable breed, such as the Golden Retriever 金毛 Jin Mao because they are known to have a good temperament. So much for the Pit Bulls and Dobermans.

There are several Chinese breeds of dogs such as the Pekingese known by several Chinese names: Beijing Chuan 北京犬 or GongTing ShiZiGou 宫廷狮子狗 or JingBa 京巴. There is also the Chinese Crested, Chow Chow, Shar Pei and XiaSi.

The only Chinese cat breed that I could find is the Dragon Li, also called Chinese Li Hua, Li Hua Mao 狸花猫 or simply Li Mao 狸猫 is a Chinese breed that was only recently recognized in 2010.

The Dragon Li displays a unique golden

I certainly would not recommend a big dog in a Chinese city. There is virtually no off leash areas and the existing rules are ever changing and non acceptable for large dogs.



Dalmatian-cute when small but need lots of room for exercise

brown, tabby pattern, distinctive ear tipping, large round almond shaped luminescent yellow/green eyes, and a strong full bodied stature reminiscent of its wild nature. The Dragon Li is valued for its unmistakable intelligence, an uncanny cognizance in relation to its surroundings, and its ability to interact perspicuously with humans.

Although Li Hua Mao is the more prevalent name for the breed in China, more recently, the name Chinese Li Hua and Dragon Li have been utilized internationally to reflect the symbolic nature of China relevant to the mythical Chinese dragon. A friend of mine owned one in Canada and named him, "Mao", one of the smartest pets I have known.

If you are planning to bring a pet from your home country into China, there is a quarantine requirement, which is 2-4 weeks, depending upon the country of origin. There are several companies that can provide this service and will take care of the paperwork upon arriving. If your pet is small enough that its kennel can fit under your seat, some airlines will allow your pet to travel with you in the cabin. Once in quarantine, you may not be able to visit your pet until it is released. Pretty traumatic for both of you so check with authorities on this recent rule. Upon departure, make sure you have all the vet documents and up-to-date rabies shots.

Most hotels in China are not pet-friendly, so you need to do some research on whether your travels will include your pet. You may just have to try sneak him/her in, which is fine, if it is a cat or lapdog. When I used to travel with DeeDee, my golf travel bag came in handy.

So if you plan having a pet while in China, make sure you have the time and more important, the emotional capacity to handle a pet. In some ways it is more demanding than a child because of difference in cultural attitudes. Westerners will think of a pet in a much more

personal way that local Chinese. If you decide to leave your pet in a kennel or with a local friend, do not expect the same personal care that you would expect at a North American kennel. I certainly would not recommend a big dog in a Chinese city. There is virtually no off leash areas and the existing rules are ever changing and non acceptable for large dogs.

One example of the hardships of pet ownership is the lack of facilitation for cremation of burial of pets. I learned the hard way when my pet died and there was no way of burial or cremating her, luckily I had a friend with an large orchard to find a proper resting place.

So take your time with this decision before making the big commitment.





## 米立方海世界

继成都新世纪环球中心开放之后，天津也打造了全国最大的室内恒温水上游乐中心——米立方海世界。虽然规模大小不能堪比世界最大的单体建筑，但在娱乐性能上，它绝对值得一游。立秋虽已过去大半个月，但气温却迟迟不肯降下来。庆幸的是，乘着渤海湾的微风，你依然可以在海世界里尽情畅游。

米立方于去年6月份开业，是一个集休闲、度假、餐饮于一体的四季水上乐园。场馆内主要设有戏水大厅、人工造浪、漂流河、滑道群、温泉SPA、海战区、儿童戏水池、海盗船、玛雅城堡、动植物景观等休闲娱乐项目。考虑到周末必定人满为患，所以不妨选在工作日去那里游玩。所有游玩设施中，探险漂流大概是最吸引游客的地方。试想一下，当你躺在特别设计的浮圈上，沿着500米长的漂流河穿越神秘的山洞和飞流直下的瀑布的时候，该会是一种怎样的惊险和刺激。

米立方水世界是天津斥资打造的最大服务项目之一。目前的票价是120元/人，当然冬天的话，价格会稍稍低一些。如果你刚好有一个空闲的下午，那么去那里就对了。不过，园内就餐可不是一件实惠的事，去之前最好先自己解决温饱问题。

如果你觉得米立方尚不能满足你游玩的需求，别担心，离水世界不远的购物大道将在不久的将来与游客见面。届时，这条大道将集餐饮与购物于一身，带给人们更多的享受。已经竣工的文化街，虽然尚未完全开放，但作为一个大型的商业中心，它已经吸引了大批的居民和游客，为周边的繁荣和发展带来无限商机。

远离秋天的闷热，逃离突然的大雨，躲避恼人的雾霾，米立方，是这个季节游玩的绝佳好去处。当然，城市中还会有其它的水上乐园，但像米立方一样四季恒温，常年开放的还是寥寥无几。只需大概两个小时的车程，就能让你尽情体验海边沙滩的乐趣，米立方水世界，你值得拥有。

# Mi Li Fang

by Bryce Cristiano

In case you hadn't seen the news, last year in Chengdu the largest building in the world was constructed. Complete with a massive shopping mall, 1,000 hotel suites, offices, a mock Mediterranean village, an

artificial sun, movie theaters, and an artificial beach; it's literally a city indoors. There's almost no reason for citizens of this enclosure to leave, and now you can be just like them. Tianjin just so happens to have its own enclosure, and



Wonderful place to enjoy all the amenities of a water park



Girl swimming in the water

while it's not nearly the size of the New Century Global Centre of Chengdu, it's still worth visiting.

We're still in the midsts of heat, despite the summer season coming to a slow end. If you have not found the time during this season to venture to the ocean and enjoy a weekend on the beach, you're still in luck, In fact, you are still in luck for the rest of the year, even if the entire Bay of BoHai freezes over or the sun is blotted out and the Earth is casted into the cold and unforgiving life of drifting aimlessly out of what was once our solar system. Whether it's summer, winter, or a nuclear apocalypse; you can always beat the elements while enjoying the beach. Laying approximately 27 kilometers from

Of all the attractions, the lazy river which spans around the entire park and goes through two caves, is probably the most crowded. If you're looking to get away from people, the hot tubs in the mountain section usually have plenty of space and seating to relax.



Have fun in the water

BinJiangDao, is a massive dome by the name of Mi Li Fang, or The Rice Cube Aquatic Park.

Opened in June of 2013, the Rice Cube Aquatic Park is quite an interesting engineering feat and wonderful place to enjoy all the amenities of a water park without becoming baked in the sun. The steel dome makes for a massive enclosure which houses a faux mountain with various heated pools, three slides, a lazy river, a child area, one massive wave pool, a cafe, and a food hall. If you wish for some fine dining after getting your feet wet, there's a restaurant which feature more expensive food than what is served in the food hall (if you can believe that because the food in the hall is already pretty

pricy). There are also V.I.P. quarters if you want to sit in a nice room, drinking the finest liquors and planning world domination while looking down unto a bunch of people swimming.

The Aquatic Park was built to accommodate a total of 20,000 visitors per day, so you can be certain you won't be alone while enjoying your visit. Despite the massive numbers of people, it seems easy to avoid those massive crowds by simply visiting on a weekday where you'll still have plenty of room to swim in the wave pool and the lines for the slides won't take too long. Of all the attractions, the lazy river which spans around the entire park and goes through two caves, is probably the most crowded. If you're looking to get away from people, the hot tubs in the mountain section usually have plenty of space and seating to relax. The lines for the slides are short enough to allow you to enjoy the slides

multiple times. I'd personally suggest buying one of the tubes because the slides can be quite slow without a tube. Not to mention that experiencing the crowded wave pool without a tube is basically a death sentence as you'll be bludgeoned by plenty of wise individuals who bought the tubes.

One billion renminbi in investments made it among one of the largest projects of Tianjin's Service Industry. That high cost is clearly reflected in the sheer size of the project as well as the ticket admissions. Presently the tickets are 120 renminbi per individual, but that's bound the change throughout the year. Surely the winter time prices will be cheaper, but there's always the chance that visitors

during the winter time may find themselves paying a larger price as the cost of maintaining the warmth of such a massive construct must be quite high.

If you have an afternoon to spare, the Rice Cube Aquatic Park is just a three hour bus ride away, via 652 at Xihuayuan. From there you can either walk fifteen minutes up the lake towards the water park, or get a ride from the local scooter drivers for five renminbi. Plenty of restaurants can be found immediately after disembarking the bus and it's suggested you eat before or after visiting as the price of food in the park isn't a great deal.

Considering that the surrounding area which encompasses the water park is still under construction, you can expect to have more things to do in the area if you're some kind of sociopath who takes no pleasure in water parks. Just due north across the road from the park is the construction of what will be a shopping avenue which will feature plenty of fast food locations and stores to buy high end merchandise. Just east of the water park is the almost finished construction of a massive cultural street which mocks the look of Beijing. While it might not be fully operational, the area is set to be a big commercial epicenter for the residents and tourists in the coming years with the rapid expansion.

If you're looking to beat the heat, hide away from the torrential downpours, or get away from the smog; MiLiFang is the place to be. There exist other water parks but this one is worth the two hour trip as you'll be able to enjoy a temperature controlled environment which ensures a pleasant experience no matter what day you decide to visit. While many of us would love to actually go to the beach, there's nothing wrong with kicking back at a water park for the afternoon and being able to come back to the city in time to get ready for work or school the next day.



A good place to beat the heat



## 多元南开

南开区无论在面积还是人口上都是天津最大的行政区，大约有80到100万人口，拥有悠久的历史以及人文气息。

如果你想俯瞰天津全景，400多米高的天塔是最好的选择。离天塔几百米的地方就是水上公园，有很美的湖景。5分钟车程开外的地方就是天津奥体中心，是举办大型体育赛事和演唱会的地方。

南开区有良好的商业基础。古文化街和鼓楼商业街是知名的旅游景点，是了解中国传统文化的好地方。这里也有现代的一面，大悦城是一个大型购物中心，乘坐地铁2号线可直达。里面有很多潮流品牌和一个设施良好的滑冰场。毗邻奥体中心的时代奥城商业中心是外国人的聚集地，很多不同国家口味和风格的餐厅聚集于此，深受老外欢迎。

很多留学生来到天津都会选择天津大学和南开大学，所以南开区也就成为他们的主要活动区域。除了这两所大学，很多对中医感兴趣对外国学生都来到天津中医药大学进行学习。

由于工作和学习的原因，很多外国人都选择住在南开区。天津的几条主干道比如卫津路和红旗南路都位于南开区，所以有时候被堵在路上的感觉真的不好。所以，如果你是学生，那还是在学校周边租房子吧。如果你不怕每天的奔波，你可以根据自己的预算选择时代奥城或阳光100两个小区。

在南开区创业也是个不错的选择。现在，区政府一再降低对区内投资的资本门槛，你可以让你的中国梦从南开开始。

随着地铁5、6号线即将在2015年开通，南开区会吸引更多的人气，它成为在津外国人的最大聚集地也不足为奇了。

# Knowing Nankai

by Carmen King



Tianjin Ancient Cultural Street

**N**ankai 南开 nánkāi is the largest district in Tianjin both in terms of area and residents. Nankai district population estimates range around 800,000-1,000,000. Nankai is rich in history and culture, especially as it relates to education. For example the top ranking Nankai University 南开大学 nánkāi dàxué, Tianjin University 天津大学 tiānjīn dàxué, and The University of Chinese Medicine 中医药大学 zhōngyīyào dàxué all call Nankai home.

A good option for a panoramic view of Tianjin is a top the 400+ meter tall Tianjin Radio and Television Tower 天塔 tiāntǎ located in Nankai. Nearby is the Tianjin Water Park 天津水上公园 tiānjīn shuǐ shàng gōngyuán which is an outdoor park with several lakes and island areas. Olympic enthusiasts will want to check out Tianjin's Olympic Sports Stadium, 天津奥林匹克中心体育场 tiānjīn àolínpǐ kē zhōngxīn tǐyùchǎng which you guessed it, is in Nankai.

Nankai offers a solid blend of commercial

When it comes to living in Nankai it is best for expats to consider where they want to spend most of their time.

development with Chinese culture. For those that want to get access to the "touristy" spots, Nankai has it, in the Ancient Culture Street 古文化街 gǔwénhuà jiē which is full of everything "ancient China" and is a top tourist attraction for those visiting Tianjin and The Drum Tower Shopping Street 鼓楼商业街 gǔlóu shāngyè jiē which offers plenty of picture and shopping opportunities. On the flip side if modern shopping is more your style, than you can check out the massive Joy City Mall 大悦城 dàyuè chéng or the very expat friendly Magnetic Capital 时代奥城 shídài àochéng.

The Joy City Mall 大悦城 dàyuè chéng has metro access directly to it. Simply take line 2 to the 鼓楼 gǔlóu stop. Joy City Mall has two main wings inter-connected by a skywalk. It is a typical multi-level indoor shopping mall. It offers plenty of top brands such as UNI QLO, H&M, GAP, Zara and even an indoor ice skating rink. Magnetic Capital 时代奥城 shídài àochéng on the other hand is more of an outdoor shopping area. A number of expat friendly restaurants can be found there. It also has a large E-Mart supermarket and is across the street from The Tianjin Water Park 天津水上公园 tiānjīn shuǐ shàng gōngyuán. Both Buynow 百脑汇 bǎinǎohuì and Cybermart 赛博数码 sàibó shùmǎ are located in Nankai district, giving geeks access to pretty much anything and everything digital.

For expats looking to study in Tianjin, Nankai has a lot to offer. For example the top ranking Nankai University 南开大学 nánkāi dàxué has a host of overseas students. In fact, it has been said that Nankai University has one of the best Chinese language programs in Tianjin. Tianjin University 天津大学 tiānjīn dàxué also has a number of foreign students studying there. The University of Chinese Medicine 中医药大学 zhōngyīyào dàxué is perhaps the choice in all of China when it comes to studying Chinese medicine and quite a number of expats can be found studying there.

When it comes to living in Nankai it is



Magnetic Capital

best for expats to consider where they want to spend most of their time. As traffic can be a bear within the district. Especially on the main north/south roads of 卫津路 wèijīn lù and 红旗路 hóngqí lù wait times can be painful. Therefore students looking to study at one of the Universities are better off renting an apartment on or near the campus if at all possible. If you are willing to commute, two Nankai communities with a lot of expats are 时代奥城 shídài àochéng and 阳光100国际新城 yángguāng 100 guójī xīnchéng. Shidai Aocheng is right next to the Shidai AoCheng (Magnetic Capital) shopping center. Therefore rent there is not cheap. Rents can often range from 5,000-10,000 RMB per month. Convenience comes at a price. More economic but slightly less convenient from a transportation standpoint is the YangGuang 100 community. A decent place there can be found for 3,000-5,000 RMB per month depending on the size. However, public buses to and from there are limited. Therefore expats living in YangGuang 100, best case scenario, will have their own car or ride a bike.

Nankai will continue to grow as the district government welcomes new businesses especially those from Beijing, as

part of the new Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei integration initiative from the Central Government. Expats should look into investing in Nankai as well. The Central Government has already reduced capital requirements for local, joint and foreign ventures to zero. So expats with a good idea and a "China Dream" can consider opening a business in Nankai.

Of the six intra-city districts, Nankai has a lot to offer expats. Be it culture, shopping, study or sports, Nankai is a well-established district within Tianjin's city limits. It was officially named Nankai district in 1956 and has since grown significantly. With the Tianjin Metro Line 1 and 3 running through many of the main parts of Nankai, traveling around the district is only mildly convenient and downright inconvenient in some spots. However metro lines 5 and 6 are under construction with tentative talks of opening in 2015. This should finally truly open up Nankai, significantly improving accessibility. Nevertheless for expats coming to Tianjin to visit, it will be hard to avoid Nankai as so many main attractions are found there. It is not surprising that the largest concentration of expats living in Tianjin today call Nankai home.



## Hanjin Group Chairman Cho Yang-ho to head 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics Organizing Committee

Hanjin Group Chairman Cho Yang-ho has been named head of the Organizing Committee for the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

Cho, who led Pyeongchang's successful bid for the Winter Olympics in



2011, was elected to the position in a meeting of the Organizing Committee on July 31.

The Hanjin Chairman had initially turned down the offer to head the Organizing Committee for the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, which had been left vacant by the resignation of Kim Jin-sun, citing his "responsibility within the Hanjin group, including the normalization of Hanjin Shipping."

In a statement released by the group on July 26, however, Cho said he decided to accept the position as "many people in and outside Korea recommended that I take it, and I also want to keep the promise I made with the International Olympic Committee to work for a successful Olympics in Korea."

"Now that I've agreed to take on the position, I will devote myself to ensuring a successful Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang based on my experience as head of the bidding committee," he said.

Chairman Cho, in addition to heading the Winter Olympics bidding committee, has also been president of the Korea Table Tennis Association and vice president of the Korean Olympic Committee.

## Korean Air increases frequency to Americas and Southeast Asia for the summer season

Korean Air, South Korea's flagship airline, has announced an increase of flights on its routes to the Americas and Southeast Asia.

The carrier is strengthening its routes to the Americas to provide customers with more flight options. From July 24 to Sept. 10, flights between Seoul/Incheon and Honolulu are increased from 17 times a week to 21 times a week (three flights per day).

The airline also increases flights on the Seoul/Incheon-Guam route from seven times a week from July 26 to Aug. 24 to 11 times a week to meet increasing demand. The additional flights depart from Seoul/Incheon at 9:35 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and arrive in Guam at 3:15 a.m. the next day. The return flights depart from Guam at 5:15 a.m. and arrive in Incheon at 9:05 a.m. The additional flights to Guam are operated by a B737 seating 138 passengers.

Korean Air has also increased flight frequency to Southeast Asia to strengthen its reach into the market. During the peak season July 23 to Aug. 24, flights between Seoul/Incheon and Chiang Mai, Thailand are increased from four times a week to seven times. The flights on the Seoul/Incheon-Nha Trang, Vietnam route are increased from two times a week to four times a week from July 19 to Sept. 10 and Seoul/Incheon-Kota Kinabalu from two times a week to four times a week from July 28 to Aug. 22.

Commencing July 28, Korean Air operates daily flights on the Seoul/Incheon-Da Nang route with three additional flights. This gives passengers from the Americas easier access to Da Nang, one of the major port cities of Vietnam.

To meet the ever-changing needs of customers, Korean Air is continuously expanding its network, allowing passengers to enjoy more options and greater flexibility when traveling.



## Australian premium wine 'Col Cross Shiraz' served on Oceania routes

Korean Air's first class passengers can now enjoy the rich flavor and taste of one of Australia's premium wines.

Starting July 29, Korean Air is serving Col Cross Shiraz, one of Australia's finest wines, to first class passengers on Oceania routes, including Sydney, Brisbane, Auckland and Nadi. The airline is also currently serving French and Californian wines on these routes.

Col Cross Shiraz was born at Haselgrove Winery in McLaren Vale, an internationally renowned wine region in South Australia, which accounts for 48 percent of all wines produced in Australia.

Col Cross Shiraz is a deep garnet-purple color with pronounced wild berry notes and hints of smoked cured meat, raw wood spice and chocolate. Medium-bodied with layers of black fruit and earthy flavors, Col Cross Shiraz has a solid backbone of firm chewy tannins and refreshing acid.

Col Cross Shiraz is made from the best small-sized grapes containing a lot of sugar grown on Haselgrove's single cultivar Shiraz vines dating

back more than 60 years. It is matured for almost 18 months in oak barrels to allow for fruit expression and complimenting oak tannin and flavor. The wine is appreciated for its various and mixed aroma, which you can feel only from the aged grapes variety.



## Korean Air introduces the 10th Airbus 380

Korean Air, South Korea's flagship airline, added its 10th A380 aircraft to its fleet on July 29. The latest A380 went through the required tests in Korea before making its debut flight to Atlanta on Aug. 3.

Korean Air operates 14 A380 flights a week on Incheon-Los Angeles and Incheon-New York routes, and also seven flights a week between Incheon and Paris.

The carrier also operates the A380 on the Incheon-Atlanta route, strengthening competitiveness on long-haul business routes.

Korean Air's first A380 was delivered in June 2011 and the delivery of the 10th finalizes the order. The A380 aircraft are deployed on long-haul routes to the US and Europe.

## Korean Air expands service to Chinese cities

Korean Air has increased frequency on its routes to China starting from July, with the number of flights on the six China routes reaching 15 times in total.

From July 8, flights between Seoul/Incheon and Beijing have been increased from 11 to 14 times a week. The additional flights depart from Seoul/Incheon at 11:55 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and arrive in Beijing at 1:05 a.m. the next day. The return flights depart from Beijing at 2:30 a.m. and arrive in Seoul at 5:35 p.m.

On July 9, Korean Air also increased its flights on the Incheon-Guangzhou route from four times a week to seven times a week. The additional flights depart from Seoul/Incheon at 9:35 p.m. on

Monday, Wednesday and Friday and arrive in Guangzhou at 0:05 a.m. the next day. The return flights depart from Guangzhou at 1:15 a.m. and arrive in Seoul at 5:40 a.m.

Flights on the Incheon-Yanji route have been increased to seven times a week starting July 8, and on the Incheon-Mudanjiang route to five times a week starting July 5. Come July 26 there will be five flights a week on the Incheon-Wuhan route also, and from Aug. 1, daily flights on the Incheon-Shenzhen route, with the addition of three flights.

Providing services to satisfy customers' changing needs, Korean Air continues to expand its network to give passengers more options and greater flexibility.



**YPT Internship Successfully Concluded**



The air was alit with a sense of accomplishment and future potential for a group of international students in a lush business office above AoCheng Plaza. Akio Tajiri (Ken) and JingRan (Ryan) overseeing Young Professionals Tianjin and Time Light Investment Ltd. respectively; were both excited

to award the students of their joint internship program. Under the guidance of mentors from all over the world and from all walks of life, these students have assembled under three different groups to handle different social issues. Ultimately, the issue of elderly retirement care was chosen as the winning topic which went on to be worked on by the entire group of students. While the award ceremony was held in private between the mentors and the students, the fruit of their labour is already being seen, as over one thousand elderly individuals have looked into the project. Given that it was an award ceremony, little was said about the project itself as most of the time was spent with the mentors giving last minute advice to their pupils in what was an exciting and emotionally charged experience.

Not only had the students managed to put together a project for retirement care, but they also spent a great deal of time producing a film to show how the experience of Young Professionals Tianjin and Time Light had given them a substantial amount of experience. From overcoming laziness, shedding a disdain for public speaking, or learning how to handle surprises in business; a great deal was learned over the five week program. It has gifted them all a glimpse into their own future and has allowed some of them to gain further insight into how they want to advance in their own careers. The members of both organizations were kind and charitable people, so it will be great to see where they go from here and who they impact next.



**Hyatt Regency Tianjin East received the Best New Open Hotel Award by China Hotels Fashion List Award**



The 4th China Hotels New Vision Peak Forum and 2014 China Hotel Fashion List Awards Ceremony was staged in Shenzhen recently. Hyatt Regency Tianjin East received the Best New Open Hotel Award by China Hotels Fashion List Award.

In 1986, Hyatt Regency became Tianjin's first international hotel – and the first Hyatt hotel in China. With a 28-year history in Tianjin, Hyatt is always committed to the mission of providing authentic hospitality and making a difference to the lives of the people we touches every day. Hyatt Regency Tianjin East heralds the return of sophisticated Hyatt hospitality to Tianjin, where the Hyatt Regency name is synonymous with hosting top-level guests, prestigious meetings and special events. Hallmarked by contemporary style, convenience and comfort, Hyatt Regency Tianjin East will once again become the premier address for dining, meeting, celebrating and relaxing in Tianjin.

Rising 25 stories over Tianjin's Hedong District, Hyatt Regency Tianjin East's strategic location forms part of the fast-developing commercial hub connecting downtown Tianjin and the booming Tianjin Binhai New Area business district. Hyatt Regency Tianjin East offers 306 spacious, well-appointed guestrooms and suites. In addition, the hotel features three international restaurants; more than 2,000 sqm of impressive meeting and wedding venues; plus a full-service Yue Spa and 25-metre swimming pool.

**BANYAN TREE TIANJIN RIVERSIDE WON 2014 CHINA HOTEL BRAND & VALUE AWARD**

Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside has been awarded as -"The Best New Opening Hotel" by << Money Week >> Financer's Choice - 2014 China Hotel Brand & Value Awards.

The selection of the final winners list is based on suggestions and recommendations of the hotel experience score. This list aims to build China's hotel brand value guide, also provide the decision basis for hotel investors for hotel brand.

Situated in the emerging metropolis of Tianjin City in Hebei district, Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside is a stylish contemporary urban resort with unparalleled views of the picturesque Hai River. An artful blend of style, elegance and modernity, Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside comprises 159 upscale contemporary-style rooms accented with minimalist oriental touches. The extra-large round bath tub is available in most rooms, perfect for a good indulgent soak with a chilled glass of bubbly. Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside is the first hotel of the group to present the renowned Banyan Tree Spa in Northern China. The hotel's five food and beverage outlets offer a wide range of exhilarating dining experiences.



**AmCham China, Tianjin**

**2014 Fall Classic Golf Tournament**

**10:00AM – 8:30PM, Saturday, September 27, 2014**  
**King Key Golf Country Club**

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**Entry Fee: RMB 1100 \***

\* The fee includes greens fee, golf cart, facilities and caddies, registration pack, lunch on the course, free flow drinks, awards banquet, return transportation and lucky draw.  
**Banquet Venue: Renaissance Lakeview Tianjin**  
**RMB 300 for Banquet only**

For more information on purchasing tickets or sponsorships, please call the AmCham China, Tianjin office at 022-23185071, or send an e-mail to [all@amchamchina.org](mailto:all@amchamchina.org).

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体验现场音乐表演的魅力

天津是一个有着1400万人口的大城市，人们喜欢美食，喜欢听相声。但是有多少人喜欢音乐呢？虽然很多酒吧都有歌手驻唱，但是真正为现场音乐会而准备的舞台似乎凤毛麟角。13 Club恐怕是天津唯一一家了。

13 Club位于意式风情街星巴克咖啡的楼上。沿着狭窄的楼梯一路走到3楼，你能看到墙上挂着很多有趣的现代派壁画。里面的场地足够宽敞，有许多可以让人们舒服休息的地方。除了看表演之外，你可以玩桌上足球，看电视或是到露台上吹吹风。不过，到天津唯一的音乐现场怎么能不欣赏音乐呢？虽然这里的舞台不大，但音响效果非常好。

在这里表演的乐队大都是以摇滚和重金属风格为主。他们的表演非常投入，充分调动了观众的情绪，台上台下一起疯狂呐喊！观众们似乎更喜欢有爆发力的疯狂表演，因为当最后一支乐队的主唱用含在嗓子眼里的声音低声吟唱的时候，观众纷纷退场了。

从观众的反应来看，这座城市还是喜欢音乐的，只不过这里缺乏对兴趣和市场的培育。如果天津能有更多这样的音乐场所，人们就能有机会见识更多风格的乐队和乐手。天津不应该只有独特的历史值得骄傲，她还应该成为当代艺术家的成长摇篮。

A Haven for Tianjin Music

By Bryce Cristiano

In contrast to many other cities across the world, Tianjin is remarkably devoid of live music venues which is surprising given the fourteen million inhabitants. While the city does have a love for comedy and food, where's the love for musicians? Some bars do offer chances for indie artists to perform, but bona-fide venues for modern music are almost nonexistent. It seems improbable that such a unique city doesn't produce any large modern music scene. Is it that 13 Club doesn't stimulate the needs of the audiences?

13 Club is the little brother of a venue under the same name in Beijing. It's cozily nestled in between two restaurants above a Starbucks in the Italian Concession of Italian Style Town. A trip up to the third floor, past murals of interesting art work, will lead you into the venue. The large sign above the building makes finding the club very easy, but the small entrance to the staircase can be easily overlooked. Admission for events isn't too pricey, only costing 30-50rmb for events which last about three hours. The drinks are decently priced considering it's in Italian Style Town, only costing around 30 for cocktails and 20 for the beers, which seems to be an average in the city.

The venue itself is remarkably cozy. Isolated on the third floor, the venue is spacious yet has enough nooks and crannies for you to find a place to settle for enjoying the show, playing foosball, watching the televisions, or relaxing on the terrace. Why you would pay money to see live music and not enjoy the live music, I don't know. If that's your cup of tea though, 13 Club has plenty to offer. The stage isn't anything to write home about, it appears quite cramped for the band but the sound system is great and you're guaranteed to be leaving with a pleasant



A local band is performing at 13 Club

ringing in your ears if you spend any time at the center of the stage. There's a V.I.P. section above the stage that's really unique because it allows people to look right down onto the band playing from the fourth floor (attic) area. This area though appears to be mostly in use of the bands playing, but I'm sure for a little extra you too could crash on the soft couches and enjoy a different perspective of the performance.

As far as the bands go, they were all very well. The show was opened with a single female singer who really set a mellow mood before the next three bands spent two hours pumping out a great deal of energy and having a blast on stage. Most of the bands played alternative rock and really had a great stage presence which kept the audience excited throughout the night. Of all the performances, the only one which really

Most of the bands played alternative rock and really had a great stage presence which kept the audience excited throughout the night.

bombed was the final band. Shifting from alternative rock to faux-death metal really cleared out the house and by the time I departed, the venue had gone from sixty people, down to about fifteen. Turns out that people don't

appreciate someone just lowly grunting into a microphone, and neither did I. Protip, there's more artistic range in the vocals of death metal than just lowly grunting. If I closed my eyes, I was almost fooled that I hearing my dog about to be sick with DIO playing in the background, rather than a band.

It seems that people do have a legitimate interest in live music in this city, but it isn't fostered at all. The bands had a good time and so did the audience. If people had more venues to go to, or more opportunities to see these bands they would understand the good artists who are making music, but just not getting recognition in China. It would be a terrible day for Tianjin if this venue were to close, since it's really on of a kind. Instead of obsessing over history, people should really be willing to help modern artists grow.

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