



Peking University

NEWSLETTER

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Lifelong Chinese Connection

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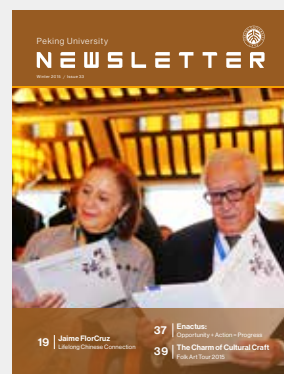
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Beijing Forum 2015 – International Economic Cooperation and Development in the New Normal

The One Belt One Road Initiative ▣ Zheng Zihui

Initiated in 2004, the Beijing Forum is an international forum that aims at promoting the study of humanities and social sciences around the world. It is co-sponsored by Peking University, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education, and the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies.

The general theme of the Beijing Forum is “The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All”. The Beijing Forum endeavors to promote academic development and social progress across the world

so to contribute to the development and prosperity of humankind. The Forum believes in promoting and safeguarding the progress of the human society through the peaceful integration of civilizations.

This year, the Beijing Forum 2015 celebrated its tenth anniversary. On November 6, the Forum’s first sub-forum – International Economic Cooperation and Development in the New Normal: The One Belt One Road Initiative – held its opening ceremony at the Four Seasons Hall, BaFang Garden, Diaoyutai State

Guest House. The Dean of the School of Economics, Peking University, Sun Qixiang welcomed guests from all around the world and expressed her gratitude to all participants on behalf of the school.

With the rise of emerging economies, international economic cooperation and assistance is increasingly important and has become an important force to push forward global growth. Since President Xi Jinping came into office, the Chinese government has initiated a number of new

international aid and economic cooperative projects, such as the 21st Century’s New Silk Road, One Belt One Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank of BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Development Bank. Many programs, like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, have received great international support including from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, India, and other developing Asian countries.

Speakers included key practitioners and top scholars in the field, and the topics addressed included global challenges to social security systems caused by population aging and an unstable macroeconomic environment, Sino-African relations, industrial evolution in China in an internationalized background, international development aid, and

multilateral and regional cooperation, to name a few.

During the first session, Professor Adrian Wood of the University of Oxford kicked off the forum with a speech titled “Lessons from the Past for Effectiveness in the Future”. Professor Wood believed that general lessons can be drawn from both Eastern and Western countries’ past experiences in international cooperation. These experiences include implementing country-led models, investing more effort than just feel-good donor projects, making conditions clearer, being aware of isomorphism, and aiming for policy coherence, and thinking beyond poverty reduction. However, even with such rich past experiences to learn from, international development cooperation will prove itself to be a difficult area.

Comments from Mr. Yu Jiantuo, China Development Research Foundation, in the third session supported Professor Wood. He argued that the goal of development should be multi-dimensional instead of focusing on poverty reduction alone. International development aid will only be put into actual use if it is well received by the people in the recipient country. A well balanced multilateral approach will promote the efficiency and effectiveness of international development aid.

Many other speakers delivered speeches highlighting China’s achievements in poverty reduction, its reasons and prospects of contributing Chinese wisdom to the One Belt One Road were given. Also, they commented on China government’s importance and roles in the whole process.

How, specifically, can international cooperation take place? One channel would be through multinationals inventive activities across countries. China’s attractiveness to foreign R&D investments from multinationals is significantly different between sectors, and this has large implications for the design of foreign research and development and innovation policies.

China has been going through a series of industrial structure upgrading. During the second session, Professor He Canfei of PKU shared how industrial development in China was based on both external factors and institutions. The evolutionary economic geography indicates that regional industrial development is path dependent. The path dependence approach however ignores external factors, which may create new paths of regional development. Moreover, it does not pay much attention to the role of institutions. Both external factors and institutions are crucial to understanding the regional industrial evolution in China. New industries are more likely to enter regions which are globalized, liberalized, and fiscally independent; indicating that economic transition has also generated opportunities for Chinese regions to create new paths of industrial development.

Great achievements come with costs, and sustainable growth rather than just development has become a concern for many.

Professor Tor Eriksson from Aarhus University argued that there exists intergenerational health inequality in China. There is concrete

evidence that there exist large income differences between individuals in China and the international level. Recent research discussed more in-depth on the inequality in

for ASEAN and East Asia talked about the importance of reinforcing regional cooperation for sustainability. Current economic policies, on their own, are not enough to transform

“ The Beijing Forum endeavors to promote academic development and social progress across the world so to contribute to the development and prosperity of humankind. ”

opportunities to access education, inequality of health, an other. An important policy implication of the aforementioned phenomenon is that the increasing inequality of income and opportunity in China can be ameliorated through the improvement of the current generation's health status and living standards.

Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi from the Economic Research Institute

societies to a low-carbon world and the world is in desperate need for a new model. He used data of different countries to illustrate that a low-carbon world is preferred with the concern of sustainability. In addition to the market forces, combination of policies, such as the One Belt One Road Initiative, is required to reinforce regional cooperation. All these mutual supports help form expectations that the markets for low

carbon technologies will emerge in the near future, which is necessary to drive and motivate innovation. This also implies that different policy packages, implemented at different stages of the innovation process, and development of the market will be required, and hence, international cooperation is sought. China, with its new capabilities and successful endeavors, may be able to lead the global government initiative, powering the sustainability dream through regional cooperation.

Apart from multinationals, regional, and international institutions also contribute to bridging and enhancing connectivity between nations. For the Asian region, Professor Biswa Bhattacharya from the UNESCO Institute for Water Education explained that the need for Asian connectivity stems from the need to create economics' sustainability and resilience against external shocks. By examining the prospects and challenges facing



Asian connectivity and characteristics of existing/new institutions for infrastructure connectivity, Professor Bhattacharya proposed a new institutional framework together with the organizational structures of a new "Asian Infrastructure Coordination Forum" for building a seamless Asian connectivity through regional and international cooperation.

Challenges lie ahead in a sustainable Chinese growth, China is experiencing a difficult transition period. Also, despite its economic resources and strength, China is relatively new to the field of international development aid and economic cooperation. More recently, some of China's overseas economic collaboration projects have encountered difficulties. Therefore, it is essential that both the Chinese government and Chinese enterprises address the following

issues if they are to implement the "go global" strategy successfully: (1) diversifying and avoiding the pitfalls of international social, economic, and political risks inherent to international economic projects; (2) coordinating with other countries and international organizations; (3) adapting to the existing international rules and practices; (4) adjusting to the local social, economic, and political customs; (5) training human resources for the "go global" strategy; (6) establishing and funding think-tanks that focus on international aid and economic cooperation.

After two and half days of fruitful discussions and exchanges, on the morning of November 8, the sub-forum "International Cooperation and Development in the New Normal: The One Belt One Road Initiative" arrived at its fourth and final session. With all that has

been discussed in previous days, the fourth session focused more on the prospectus and outlook of international cooperation—Innovation and Development under the One Belt One Road proposal. Successful transition from low-wage to innovation-based competition is crucial for China to sustain its competitiveness. Professor Daniel Trefler from the University of Toronto pointed out that China is transitioning from a low-wage competitor to an innovation-based competitor and that the one belt one road policy makers should have a clear and organized plan for Asia infrastructure. In order to proceed through the second stage of economic transition, China's government should maintain a fair market environment, protect intellectual property, promote the rule of law, and supervise business practices.



12th Annual Global Youth Innovation Competition

by Tan Yi Qian

As twelve teams of young innovators from different countries assemble in Peking University (PKU) to realise their dreams, a night brimming with exceptional ideas commences. Let us put our hands together to welcome our brilliant youths!

These words marked the opening ceremony of the 12th Global Youth Innovation Competition, held at the Peking University Hall on the evening of October 25, 2015. The Global Youth Innovation Competition was launched by Peking University to help embrace the outside world and lead future generations under the motto “to innovate, to create, and to produce.” It is an annual event well-known for its ability to attract ingenious students from all over the world. There were many eager participants

with various innovations in the beginning of the competition. There innovations were in the form of film, theatrical performances, books and magazines, games, mobile media, artwork, Internet platforms, cultural products, and many more. At the end of the jury’s deliberations, twelve teams or individuals are granted the opportunity to present their innovations in the final round of the Global Youth Innovation Competition.

1st Round: Fast-Pitch

In the first round, the finalists will be paired off to compete for a spot in the second round as they are given three minutes to pitch their innovations to an elite jury composed of Stephen Lu, the renowned creativity education expert; Rao Yi, former professor of

PKU Life Science Institute; Wang Yuhong, founder of Jin Chu Lian (Beijing Online Network Technology Company) and proud PKU alumnus; Carter Tseng, winner of the American Chinese Engineers Association’s “Outstanding Achievement Award”; and Chen Xiangdong, founder of Gen Shei Xue learning service platform. In addition to this panel, 101 student judges from various faculties joined in the voting process to create a night brimming with awe-inspiring ideas and commentary.

The crowd fell in love with the team from Tsinghua University, who took the stage by storm with their innovation “Chineseworld.com”, an e-business platform that is capable of sourcing and categorizing China’s cultural heritage. Not only did they show off their exceptional knowledge on information gathering and webpage design, but

the presenter also captivated the audience with her fabulous stage presence and humorous delivery. The “Chinese World” platform triumphed over their opponents “Wine App” with a victory of seven votes to none.

Next on stage was “Wipace”; running shoes built in with the world’s smallest somatosensory game machine, that allows consumers to combine games with exercise. It is a revolutionary product that will change consumer’s perspective of exercise, and it will likely become a much desired health product in the future. Even though they managed to score well with the student judges, the senior panel seemed to disagree, hence resulting in a two-point loss to “Brain-controlled race car”.

“See Through Cosmetics”, in a humorous tone, voiced their concerns about commonly used cosmetics as they introduced to the audience an application that could evaluate the ingredients of each cosmetic product, with details of each ingredients actual benefits. However, the audience’s attention was very soon captured by a team made up of students from Northeastern and Osaka Universities, who introduced a handy way to appreciate tea at any time.

A Korean pair excited the crowd with their performance of an adorable mini-skit of their project, the “Transensation”. The project revolves around a media platform that allows anyone to create their own story and characters, bringing each individual’s own fantasy to life. Even though, to the audience’s dismay, they did not make it through to the next round, they left the stage

gracefully: “This loss is nothing to us, as we are still young and this is only part of our journey. We will treat this trip as a generous travel opportunity provided by Peking University to come to China and have a good time!”

The last team on stage was a group of teenagers from the National University of Defense Technology, introducing “Xuan Si Zhen Mai”: An application that can detect a patient’s pulse using optical fibers – allowing people to undertake medical evaluations from the comfort of their own homes. A handy device for modern lifestyles, the idea could well have been a success had it been more realistic. Their product, as pointed out by the judges, could not be produced with current technologies, which renders their innovation an improbable one. Due largely to this setback,

they lost to their opponent “Touch of Hope” in a crushing defeat.

2nd Round: Creative Presentation

In this round, contestants had five minutes to further explain their innovations. The student judges were entitled to one point each, while the judges each had a hundred points at their disposal, totaling a grand sum of 601 points up for grabs on the night. The contestants were ranked according to the points they were awarded, and the teams with the top three highest scores then advanced to the third and final round.

The contestants were judged according to their product’s potential benefits, technology, cultural considerations, creativity, and how well the presenters express themselves. Some members of the audience may well have questioned why contestants’ abilities to express themselves was considered an important aspect, but this was explained clearly by the emcee of the night: “Only once you can really move consumers will you be someone who could move investors”. It speaks volumes for how important charisma is to entrepreneurs and why the Global Youth Innovation Competition was held in such an unconventional fashion.

“PKU Design” is a team that pledged to build a platform for PKU students with designer dreams; focusing on helping students bridge the gap between ideas and real products. The team started with an extremely simple intent – to retain the members’ fond memories of

Rank	Contestant	Score
1	“Wine App” vs “Chinese World”	0:7
2	H3 Mouth Guard vs “See Through” Cosmetics	6:1
3	Sado (Japanese Tea Ceremony) Intelligence vs THE Journey	1:6
4	Wipace vs Brain-Controlled Race Car	2:4
5	PKU Design vs Transensation	5:1
6	Xuan Si Zhen Mai vs Touch of Hope	2:5

Peking University. It then evolved into a fully-pledged platform with the help and suggestions of many generations of PKU students. It has now been around for about four years, and it is a relatively mature project compared to the other teams. Even though the concept of the platform might be simple, but from a sentimental point of view, it is still worthwhile to those involved. As they said, "As long as you have the passing thought of 'wouldn't it be nice if I could make this product real?' 'PKU Design' will be there for you."

Next up was "THE Journey", as they chose once again to present their merchandise in the form of a musical, which was more exciting and expressive than the first round. While their delivery of their merchandise was criticized by the judges for being more of a performance rather than a presentation, they were also praised for the clear concern with parent-child relationships.

"Have you felt the same darkness as I've felt? Welcome to the lives of Kara and Adam; children born with a rare condition called deaf-blindness". This was Biman's (creator of "Touch of Hope") first sentence to the audience, after asking them to briefly shut their eyes. After watching the movie Black, which tells the story of a little girl suffering from deaf-blindness who is constantly running away from a bell tied to her leg, Biman became deeply motivated to develop a product that would allow people suffering from deaf-blindness to understand the physical world. He came up with the idea "Touch of Hope": a glove that can take inspiration from the physical world: the colors and dimensions of various

objects, and transfer them into meaningful vibrations that can be felt by the hand. It was clear to all that Biman was a great entrepreneur as well as an individual eager to make changes, with his clear empathy for

2 nd Round Results		
1	Touch of Hope	485
2	THE Journey	461
3	H3 Mouth Guard	461
4	Chinese World	449
5	PKU Design	440
6	Brain-Controlled Race Car	411

those not as well off as himself. He might not make big money from his project, but he would surely make Karas and Adams' lives far better.



3rd Round: Questions from the Panel of Judges

Biman was first asked by the judges: "your passion in wanting to help the 1% is admirable, but have you thought about how this technology could be applicable to the rest of the population in order to make it fundable?" With a smile on his face, he answered "you shouldn't have to make money off of the vulnerable. My market may be small, but as long as I get it to each and every of the 2000 people in need of it, my product will be worthwhile".

H3 Mouth guard showed off their professional knowledge by handling every analytical question the judges threw at them with ease, while "THE Journey" expressed their aspiration to create fun bonding time for families, despite judges branding it a business model that "could not make money".

The judges had a conflict of opinions as they debated whether a business should focus more on the product and earning money, or on social improvement. "I commend you for your creativity," said one judge to "THE Journey", "but I wonder if you'll make money at all". Another insisted

that "you shouldn't focus on making big bucks, but rather on improving the lives of people". There is no right or wrong answer, but simply a choice. However, the fact that Biman – whose product could only be marketed to 2000 people in the world – was consequently announced the winner, it would seem that the idea of social entrepreneurship won over.

Our champion perhaps speaks volumes for what our teenagers today are most concerned with, as many of the participating projects were not primarily aimed at making money. No longer will our entrepreneurs' main focus be profit margins, but rather improving the general state of peoples' lives. We can hence look forward to the changes the younger generation can bring.

The winner of the competition was granted 10,000RMB, but success in these kinds of contests does more



“No longer will our entrepreneurs' main focus be profit margins, but rather improving the general state of peoples' lives.”

for entrepreneurs than simply secure financial resources. It gives them validation to carry on developing their product with confirmation of their value from some of the world's

leading minds.

As the night came to a close, the judges were invited on stage to "put their hands together" and witness the formal establishment of the Global Youth Innovation and entrepreneurship alliance under the lead of Gao Song, Vice Principal of Peking University. It signifies the fact that Peking University will serve as a spearhead bearing the important mission of cultivating superb and innovative talents to explore technology and culture.

The 12th Annual Global Youth Innovation Competition was proudly supported by Xtecher, a Global technological innovation and entrepreneurship platform.

3 rd and Final Round Results	
1 st	Touch of Hope
2 nd	THE Journey, H3 Mouth Guard
3 rd	PKU Design, Chinese World, Brain-Controlled Race Car

Fusion, Innovation and Social Values

Global Youth Innovation Leadership Forum Held at PKU

► Huang Fangyuan

On October 25, 2015, “The Fusion, Innovation, and Social Values: Global Youth Innovation Leadership Summit” was held at the Yingjie Overseas Exchange Center at Peking University (PKU). Co-organized by Peking University, Xtecher, iCAN, and the Qingdao municipal government, this year’s event attracted a large number of entrepreneurs, teachers, and students from across the country. Many famous Chinese entrepreneurs came onto stage and shared their insights on innovation,

entrepreneurship, and leadership with the audience.

Keynote Speech

The event began with a keynote speech “A Historical Opportunity for Educational Innovation” delivered by Dr. Lu Zhiyang, founder of the Global Classroom. With the rapid surge of mass innovation in recent years, innovation has been placed on the top of the list for future development. Although everyone is talking about innovation, only a few

truly grasp the core of it. Professor Lu pointed out that “innovation is an attitude and a thinking pattern”, and he added that future leaders are those who have context as well as knowledge and this can only be achieved by educational innovation. When it comes to the current educational situation, Lu was disappointed to see that industrialized education had turned schools into factories, students into raw materials, teachers into factory workers, and class schedules into assembly lines during which an educational

bubble was created in the same way as that of real estate market. “I believe that the golden age for educational innovation is coming, because education is drifting away from content-orientated model to context-orientated one, from ‘doing the thing right’ to ‘doing the right thing.’” Back in 2008, Lu came up with the idea of a Global Classroom catering to the new demands in education. One year later, the first Global Classroom — iPodia was born. After running for eight years, iPodia has undergone a rapid expansion covering a number of universities across the globe, allowing students to have classes together simultaneously. “Via iPodia’s interactive, cooperative teaching model, we’d like to establish a unique platform for resource sharing to cultivate a new generation of bright, promising young men and women who have international perspectives.” Looking back to his past experience, he said, “Honestly, innovation has nothing to do with gambling, it is a process of forever learning.” By initiating the iPodia Alliance, he hoped to see more and more brilliant ideas put into practice by youth innovators.

Sub-Forum I: Leadership, Global Vision, and Future Leaders

The first forum “Leadership, Global Vision, and Future Leaders” was hosted by Professor Zhang Haixia, founder of the iCAN Global Youth Innovation Forum. Guests attended were Juliet Luo, Carter Tseng,



Crystal Lai, Wang Zhenshan, and Liu Peichao.

Using her growing experience as an example, Dr. Luo shared her understanding of success: “Strong passion and a sufficient amount of social capital are the keys to success.” In Luo’s childhood, her passion for ballet dancing enabled her to go beyond her limits and beyond herself. “I would not rest until every single move of my performance was perfect by my own standards”, she recalled. Advancing forward with the same passion, Luo made great scientific breakthroughs

in achieving the highest success rate of 58% in “IVF fertility treatment. Another key to her success is access to rich and effective social capital. When Luo started up her own enterprise, she considered herself “lucky enough” to gain financial support from the right people.

Dr. Tseng added that while social

capital was important in visualizing innovation, the ambition was to make positive changes to the world that mattered most. “You will never succeed if you are only striving for more money. Do bear in mind strong sense of mission to make a difference to the world”, said Dr. Tseng. He concluded his speech with Steve Jobs’ famous saying “stay

“ Strong passion and a sufficient amount of social capital are the keys to success. ”

hungry, stay foolish” to spur innovative spirit and entrepreneurship attitude among the young.

Sub-Forum II: Innovation, Innovation Trend, and Social Values

Sub-forum II centered on joint



efforts of art and science in driving innovation. The host Tang Jinnan,

came into existence, new leaders, new slogans, and new works soon



Deputy Dean of the School of Arts invited another six guests onto the stage.

Chen Qiufan, a science fiction novelist and a young entrepreneur, talked about the present and the future of Chinese science fiction. It is remarkably noticeable that science fiction has gained growing popularity in China. After the winning of Victor Prize by Chinese writer Liu Cixin, Chen observed "an overwhelming flow of sci-fi publications into the market". In view of this, Chen suggested young entrepreneurs "not to get lost among the coming and going of various trends". "China's literary circles were always dominated by one trend after another", he commented, "Whenever a new trend

followed. But none of them lasted long." For an entrepreneur, the crucial thing was diving into a promising field full of possibilities rather than drifting through tempting trends aimlessly. Right now, there is a huge potential for Chinese sci-fi films. Chen and his teammates were making every effort to develop motion capture, a new technology producing special effects in filmmaking at a relatively low cost.

Cao Xue, a young artist specializing in Ikebana (flower arranging), spoke of emotional innovation, "Innovation is not complicated, it is all about doing what you like." He then recounted his story as a new entrepreneur looking for investors. Beyond

doubt, one should make his business model plausible and attractive in front of potential investors in order to succeed. What really made Cao stand out was his dream behind his business model. Innovation driven by capital alone was far from enough, the dream gave innovation wings to soar high above the clouds.

Afterwards, the forum came to the interactive portion. A question related to the development of Chinese science fiction was raised by one of the students, to which Chen Qiufan replied, "At present, we have enough literary works yet we lack substantive power to transform them into more acceptable forms of mass media." He went on to explain that science fiction movies were "highly integrated", which made persistent demand on the capability of directors, playwrights, cameramen, actors, and actresses. Therefore, there is still a long way to go to bridge the gap between mainland and Hollywood filmmaking.

Finally, the launch of 2016 International Contest of Innovation iCAN marked the end of this year's leadership summit. Getting its name from "Yes, I Can", a confident declaration by a previous participant, iCAN has now gained international reputation appealing to hundreds and thousands of talented young entrepreneurs across the globe each year. We are eager to see the young generations contribute their brilliant ideas to change the world for the better.



The Debate Club A Home Away from Home for International Students

▫ Andrew Mao

Almost every university in the Western world has its own debate society. It seems only natural then that international students at PKU also wish to integrate into PKU's own debate society. Some have even taken one step further and have become leading figures in invigorating a society that resembles their own one back home.

So how universal are debate societies? Let us take a look at Britain, the birthplace of varsity debate. The Oxford and Cambridge Union debating societies have seen nearly two hundred years of vigorous student debates. The Oxford Union alone has produced twelve British Prime Ministers in its history and boasts its very own library and even a bar that is exclusive to debate members. What about the status quo of debate beyond the reign of Queen Elizabeth?

Not only are debate clubs among the largest student societies in European and American colleges, they also have gained increasing membership in Asia, most notably in places such as Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and the list goes on.

It comes by as no surprise then, that when the Peking University club rally week comes by at the beginning of each year, international students search the venue for the school's debate society. Some of these students have been committed debaters back home, and are looking to continue extracurricular pursuits in debate, while others may just be looking to brush up their public speaking skills and perhaps speak English once in a while.

So what is the status quo of debate like on campus? There exists both Chinese and English debating, which

operate in two parallel worlds. When it comes to Chinese debate, Peking University has a well-established inter-collegiate society which hosts signature tournaments annually. Chinese debating is highly competitive, requires extensive research and preparation, and poses a relatively high entry barrier for non-native Chinese speakers. Perhaps that is why most international student debate-seekers eventually find their way back into the world of English debate.

Peking University's English debate society is relatively young, approaching its tenth anniversary. It has attracted a crew of around eighty members, one quarter of whom are exchange students and international students. The format of debate is British Parliamentary, which perhaps to some degree, explains the organic integration of students from Western educational backgrounds. Parliamentary debates

unfold around policy-making, usually highlighting concepts such as democracy, liberties, feminism, LGBT, education, and so forth. Quoting from Chng Luey Chun, an experienced debater from the School of

“**Debating for me has never been an end in itself, but a means to an end... for me, it has always been about maintaining an open mind.**”

International Studies, “Debating for me has never been an end in itself, but a means to an end... for me, it has always been about maintaining an open mind.”

He is an example of just how highly involved and committed international students have become to the English Debate Society. A senior from Singapore, better known as “LC”, he is the ex-president of the society and is in his fourth year taking part in the club. As the former Singaporean national debate champion, LC regularly trains society members during the regular weekly debate meetings. His compatriot, Liki Ng, currently

studying in the Yenching Academy program, also actively participates in tournaments around Beijing while serving as a judge for numerous scholastic and regional tournaments. Many core members of the society, like Liki and LC, take on a leading role within the society, and thanks to their unique experiences in prior debating institutions, they offer valuable leadership and vision in creating a more supportive debating environment for

fellow members.

At the same time, many international students have come to debate and have challenged their local peers by exposing them to a more diverse spectrum of ideas. Valeria Liseichikova is a seasoned debater and exchange student from Belarus, “I feel extremely lucky to have found PKU’s debate society. I never thought I would be able to continue debating in Beijing.” In the past month, Valeria and her partner, Jeremy Allen from the United States, have participated in two tournaments on behalf of Peking University: The 2015 Northeast Asian Debate Open and the Beijing Debate

Open. Interestingly, there are also international members new to debate themselves who have come to learn this art alongside their native peers. Randy Hendrika, from Indonesia, studies in a Chinese language program. With almost five years of Moot Court experience behind him, he decided to try out English debate when he joined the society by chance early this year, “I am leaving soon, but I really, really regret not joining the debate society last semester.” With his unique background in international law, Randy is able to inspire and inform fellow debaters when it comes to motions regarding international issues.

As has been shown by the many international students opting into the society, debate is truly an art that transcends national boundaries. Not only does debate inspire awareness and general consciousness of the world, but it also facilitates tolerance and understanding through exposure to speakers with diverse backgrounds. Compared to debate societies in Western universities, Peking University’s own society is still growing and developing, yet it offers a platform for exchange and discourse for both native and international enthusiasts.



study is simple: China has become an indispensable part of my life. I have found in China a great deal of what I have always wanted to do since I was a child: to represent my country in sharing Mexico’s culture and to make my daily life an adventure.

I am always eager to meet new people and learn about different cultures, and so it dawned on me that learning languages was the first step to take. Attracted by the enormous diversity presented by Asia, I decided to study an Asian language. However, it was not until high school that fate led me to the Confucius Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. After the entrance examination for a class in elementary Chinese, I was put at the top of a waiting list, and fortunately for me another student quit the program! God offered me this opportunity, and I thought at the time that it must be written in the stars. I finally found

myself studying Mandarin, and I fell in love with the language in the very first class. The four different tones, the writing, the unfamiliar sounds: all of it took me immediately out of my comfort zone and brought me new challenges, providing me with a sense of adventure that I had yearned for. I can honestly say that Mandarin was the first subject that I studied with genuine enthusiasm, and not simply because I was told to.

After two years at the Confucius Institute, joining every activity that they organized in an attempt to learn as much as I could, the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) granted me a year-long scholarship to study Mandarin at the Beijing Language and Culture University. Every single day of that year was a different adventure. Spending just one year in Beijing, with its beautiful surroundings, and all the amazing trips I went on, was simply not enough: I had to

come back. Since I was also keen on international issues, when I returned to Mexico to continue studying my bachelor’s degree, the thought came to me: why not combine the two things I like the most, and study international relations in China? Without any hesitation, I dropped out of university in Mexico. Maybe it was a rash decision, but it was one that I have not regretted, because it was the best decision I have ever made.

Just like four years ago, my life in China is still a never-ending adventure. There is always something new to learn at PKU, both inside and outside the classroom. I am surrounded by foreigners who, like me, have come to China looking for their own adventure. As a result, thanks to the strong friendships with people from all around the world that I have met here at PKU, I have become fond of many other countries as well as China.

Reflections of a Mexican at PKU

Yu Wufei

I am Antonio Quiroz from Mexico, now living in Beijing. I am 24 years old, and visited China for the first time when I was 19. Back then, I had just finished my freshman year at the National Autonomous University

of Mexico (UNAM). After spending one year at Beijing Language and Culture University, I returned to Mexico to continue my bachelor’s degree, but soon enough – in my second year – I dropped out of my university back

home in order to enroll in Peking University, where I study now.

Why China?

The reason why I came to China to

Life in PKU—Living Amongst Chinese Students

I come from a large and very united family, which is maybe the reason I love being surrounded by my friends all the time. I think this is what I like the most about my life in China: hav-

“ I have found in China a great deal of what I have always wanted to do since I was a child: To represent my country in sharing Mexico's culture and to make my daily life an adventure. ”

ing good friends from China and also from a lot of different countries, too.

During what is coming up to four years of life here in China, I have participated in all sorts of activities with Chinese students, ranging from sports to academic and cultural activities. The one that impressed me the most, however, was the volunteer opportunity in Jiangxi Province, which I participated last summer with my classmates. This program aimed at helping students in Wuyuan County, Jiangxi Province, to broaden their horizons and to help them realize that their studies can improve their lives. It was one of the most enriching experiences I have had in China for many reasons.

First of all, the visits to two high schools in the Chinese countryside were very meaningful. It was a surprise to witness how hardworking Chinese students are in middle school. The students from these two schools live on campus and study for a great part of each day, which was very inspiring

for me, this this opportunity gave me a better understanding of the situation of Chinese students in college. Secondly, it gave me a chance to spend more time with my classmates, which is always important for developing friendships. They taught me a lot of things, not only about language and culture, but also about themselves, and thanks

to this volunteer program, we are now all very good friends. Since the program, we often still spend time together at school and help each other out when needed. Finally, it was simply a nice chance to travel to a place I had never been to before and learn more about Chinese history and its diverse culture. I loved every part of the trip: experiencing the Chinese countryside, visiting beautiful ancient villages, and enjoying the sweet smell of nature whilst walking through the rice fields, trekking and rafting in the mountains, as well as exploring caves and woods.

My Take on Mexico-China Academic Exchanges

Nowadays, several Mexican universities offer exchange programs with Chinese universities. This semester I have had the opportunity to be a volunteer in the Second Mexico-China Seminar, and I met many Mexican and Chinese scholars. Through their lectures in the seminar and the conversations I had with them, I realized that there are potential interests in the

academic world to continue mutual cooperation and to create a solid network of scholars from both countries. This seminar is becoming larger every year, which is a good sign of the growing scholarly exchanges between the two countries.

In my opinion, I think the the future seems promising for the scholarly exchanges between China and Mexico. This semester, I am taking part in a project called “Latin-America Impressions”, which was created by the Latin-American Student Union and the Student Union of the School of International Studies. In the project, Latin American embassies receive students from PKU to introduce various aspects of their country, such as culture, economy, commerce, and relations with China. Thanks to this program, I had the opportunity to get in touch with the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of Mexico, Tanya Rebolledo. She explained to me that the Embassy of Mexico is having talks with PKU to form better ties with Mexican universities so that PKU can receive more Mexican students in different programs.

The relations between two countries need to have a foundation of deep mutual understanding. I encourage all Mexican students to put aside their fears and study Mandarin. There is nothing I admire more than our teachers' genuine desire to share their invaluable knowledge of China with us. I don't think one can accurately learn about China in English because of the simple reason that Mandarin is a better medium to understand China. As a Mexican student at PKU, I am happy to assist any Mexican students who want study at PKU and contribute to strengthening the relations between both countries.

Digging Deeper into Being a Human

An Interview with Phillip Richard Blue

✎ Chen Xingren & Liu Xiya

When I first met Phil Blue, he was dressed in black and has the typical appearance of a man from the U.S. However, to my surprise, he could speak very fluent Chinese. Born in 1987, Phil is now a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Psychology at Peking University. In the summer of 2014, he was invited to appear on a CCTV program as an expert in neuroscience. The program invited 50 gifted teenagers with high intelligence to showcase their talents, and they were evaluated by judges—one of which was Phil. In June 2015, he volunteered at a renowned language forum of psychology in China. He was also one of the hosts of 2013 PKU International Cultural Festival.

“How long have you been studying Chinese?” “I've been here for four years, but only studied Chinese for a year.” Languages mean a lot to him. “When you throw yourself into a country to learn a foreign language, the strong desire for communication and the anxiety of not being able to understand other people forces you to study the language well.” He reckoned that this full immersion is a good and efficient way of learning languages as well as deepening one's comprehension in a language. He said that, “normally six months of full immersion is enough for any language.”

Our discussion then turned to the field of psychology and sociology. Phil is pursuing his doctorate at



the Center for Brain and Cognitive Science under the guidance of his supervisor, Professor Zhou Xiaolin from the Department of Psychology. His research primarily focuses on the influence of social status on people's cognition of fairness and trust. The two projects he is participating in are coming along well. The results for the research project on fairness has been published in two papers, one in “Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience” and the other in “Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience”, with Impact Factors of 4.16 and 5.88. He has also participated in a paper about social norms with four other students that was published in the “Journal of Neuroscience”, which has an Impact Factor of 6.74. The second research project is about trust, and he has been invited to visit Switzerland and the Netherlands to participate in academic forums related to this topic. Recently, he was listed as the third author in a paper on the genetic basis

of perspective published in “Frontiers in Human Neuroscience”. Due to his excellent academic performance, he was presented the Outstanding International Students Scholarship by the Chinese Ministry of Education, and was also one of ten students to be awarded the Student of the Year Award of Peking University.

According to Phil Blue, the reason for him to major in psychology is to “get to know human beings”. In China, the country with the largest population in the world, he enjoys working with people here. “It's a very diverse country. Also, due to its difference with westerns countries, my research is a lot more interesting to me.”

When asking him questions, I tended to say some “you Americans” and “we Chinese” without realizing it, but Phil told me that he is trying to break those boundaries set by different countries and religions. He prefers exploring this world while holding the simplest identification—a human

being. He could not bear anyone calling him “a XXX-ist”. “These titles simply lock people inside and limit their cognitions about the world.” He would like to be a “mediator”; to ease the conflicts between cultures and build bridges for exchange and communication.

Phil also recognizes the correlation of the openness of Chinese and their education level. In most cases, people who received higher education can accept more diversity of thoughts. However, there are still exceptions when educated people can be rigid and unaccepting. In his point of view, there are two kinds of people—good and bad. The good, which are in the majority, give off affection and kindness, while the bad consists of extremists from inside and out. “Education cannot change everything”, said Phil, “the most important thing in these cases is family background.” Therefore, he intends to experience journeys and adventures while he is still young and eventually settle down when he finally has a family, and he will try his best to influence his children in a positive way.

Phil Blue mentioned that a lot

of people he has met have dreams and longings for the unknown, but those who really dared to step out of their comfort zone have been in the minority. He suggested that one should get moving as soon as he or she has something that they are willing to do. He has been through that many times; for example, unexpectedly booking a planet ticket, getting packed, and going. He once walked 800 kilometers from France to Spain, and when in Argentina, he worked as a waiter in the most expensive restaurant while taking psychology classes at the University of Buenos Aires. “If you never take the first step, you will never know a country and its culture.”

Our conversations finished at nearly two o’clock in the afternoon. Phil stood up, apologizing, “Sorry I have to leave.” Every day at this time, he will be at a Cafe in the PKU Zhongguan Gobaal Village international students’ dormitories to read Chinese books for about an hour. Every member of staff in that cafe knows him quite well. On the day of the interview, he was reading the book “World of Plainness”. He has a tight schedule every day, which he regards

as an effective tool to manage his life.

While answering questions, he always started with “in my opinion...” He emphasized that he was afraid of misunderstanding caused by his own words. During the CCTV program, he learned a lot about communication with people, and how to reduce misunderstandings. Although television is not the field that he is most interested in, he still considered this experience as one that is very enlightening and valuable to him.

Speaking of his previous achievements, Phil Blue expressed his gratitude to the professors and classmates in his lab. He recognizes that he does not do well in every aspect, but the professors and his classmates have offered great patience and tolerance to help him improve. “I hope that I can delve deeper into my research, and I hope I can repay the kindness of those people who have helped me”

True to his training in psychology, he concluded by saying, “people always see our talents and abilities and express admiration, however, they often fail to notice the efforts we put in to achieve our goals.”



Jaime FlorCruz Lifelong Chinese Connection

by Wei Yuchen

On October 25, 2015, Jaime FlorCruz attended the International Alumni Oral Histories—Press Conference and Panel Discussion and shared his legendary experiences in China.

With rapid economic growth,

fusion of life’s meaning. As a witness of China’s great changes over the past several decades, Jaime considered “the age of thinking” to be around the corner. Meanwhile, China should slow down her step and create a more environmental friendly society to

better people’s lives. As a professional journalist, Jaime insists on being objective when solving problems and convincing critics. He considers himself to be an international journalist who always bears the sa-

cred responsibility of news in mind: “China means more than love to me, along with the changing times, China has become an indispensable part of my life and spirit. My connection

with China is just like a bicycle on the road, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, but always moving forward.” Having spent forty-four years in China, Jaime is a foreigner who knows China better than many Chinese people.

The first part of the discussion was about Jaime’s predestined relationship with Peking University. During his presentation, Jaime showed to the audience some meaningful items that evoked memories of his days as a student at PKU. For example, his school badge, student ID card, a meal ticket, and a silk banner of a basketball game.

He enrolled in PKU in a special year—1977—it was the first year of the resumption of the university entrance examination (“Gao Kao”). The Cultural Revolution had just come to an end and there was heated debates

“China means more than love to me, along with the changing times, China has become an indispensable part of my life and spirit.”

Chinese people have achieved wealth accumulation and life improvement beyond what was imagined prior to China’s reforms and opening. However, economic success led to a con-

nection



regarding the “Two Whatever’s”: “We will resolutely uphold whatever policy decisions Chairman Mao made, and unswervingly follow whatever instructions Chairman Mao gave”). “PKU was ahead of the time, showing a trend of ideological emancipation,” Jaime recalled those years with emotion, “It was unforgettable to experience such atmosphere full of youthful spirit.”

As for his graduation thesis, Jaime chose the “December 9th Movement” as the main theme. Discussing the reason, Jaime recalled the experience of being a student movement leader in Philippines, which was closely related to the topic selection of the thesis. “Meanwhile, it was precisely because of the movement that the Communist Party could foster those qualified cadres who were ‘both socialist-minded and professionally competent’ and manage the large country better,” explained Jaime, “The participants of the movement were also easy to contact.”

Professor Wang Xiaohu, who was in charge of Jaime’s history course, commented on the topic selection that choosing modern history of China would contribute to a deep understanding of China. Though the topic had certain difficulties, Jaime made

his thesis lively and vivid by adding elements of oral history extracted from interviews, and he added his unique experience as a student movement leader to supplement his thesis.

The next part was Jaime’s fateful relationship with China. Having been in China for forty-four years, Jaime concluded, “I have witnessed China’s great change over the past several decades, which could be called a miracle.” Before the reform and opening up policy, life in China was simple and even rough, imposing considerable challenges on Jaime, “I was unable to go home and I missed my family so much.” However, after he entered Peking University, his life had changed entirely. His participation in the basketball team helped him make many friends, and it was these friends that made his campus life more enjoyable. Peking University also accepted Jaime with its broad mind and offered him many opportunities: “I got to the most suitable place at the most suitable time,” Jaime said, “I was so lucky.” However, nowadays, China is still facing many problems and challenges, including corruption, environmental pollution and the widening gap between the rich and the poor. Jaime believes that China

will continue developing and progressing—the miracle will continue.

When asked which period of China he preferred, Jaime chose the past one. “It was an innocent and unaffected time, and the interpersonal relationships were simple and unsophisticated. People believed the principle of “serve the people” from the bottom of their heart,” Jaime recalled with deep emotion, “I hope China could maintain its core value of modesty and confidence in the process of modernization and development, keep friendly and peaceful relationships with other countries and regions, and provide the people with a better and happier life. It’s also my hope that Chinese people, especially the young people, could find the core value of Chinese culture and find the true meaning of being Chinese.”

When it came to the journalism, Jaime firmly believes that his mission was to “share the China story”, which also led to his success as a journalist. “I always tell myself to bear two things in mind, one is that the majority Chinese population are peasants, the other is that social stability is of great importance to China.” Jaime evaluated that his core competence was context, which meant that his

abundant experience in China made him able to explain the reason and relate the historical background to a certain current event.

As for the query of comprehensiveness and objectivity of CNN, Jaime responded that though he could not represent most journalists, there were reasons to believe that some people holding critical attitude did not see the complete reports. “Many reports are just little pieces of a mo-

saic. Paying attention to just a little piece might easily lead to a negative opinion.” Jaime also shared some ideas of being a conscientious journalist: “Being neutral is important for a reporter. The biggest responsibility we shoulder is to give accurate accounts, even if they are sometimes sharp criticisms. Another principal is sympathy towards vulnerable groups. We spread the voice of the weak, even if it may make the comfortable feel

uncomfortable.”

At last, Jaime reflected upon his forty years’ experience in China: “struggling in China; growing in China; thriving in China”. He also had some words for the youth in China who want to get involved in the press: “I hope you can study hard and improve your written ability and eloquence. Never discard the loyalty to your country.”

Professor Kenneth Lieberthal Tells Us How Americans See China

✎ *Ami Higuchi*

How will the TPP affect the structure of Asian Pacific region?

First of all, for the TPP to take effect, twelve countries have to ratify the deal domestically. So there is

going to be a process that might take some time. Secondly, I keep hearing that the US sought to exclude China from the TPP, and I think that is wrong. First of all, the original idea of the TPP was not American idea, but Americans adopted it. I think that from the start, China did not seek to

join the TPP. China never asked to be part of it, as far as I know. I have asked American negotiators about getting China to join the TPP, but their answer has always been “let’s first get the agreement done.” China has not asked to join it at this point, and it will be extremely complicated

to have a country with an economy as large as China in the initial negotiation stage. Once when we get it done, we would love for China to join because we want China to have a high quality economy. So, I think the best outcome from the American point



of view is for China applying for TPP membership becomes reality. And I heard in China from some government officials see the TPP as an opportunity. A similar opportunity as joining the WTO was for China. So it's the opportunity to promote reforms in China in order to eventually become a high income, high quality, and highly innovative economy.

How can China joining the TPP be an opportunity?

I think eventually the goal is to have Asia Pacific set off an agreement with all the major players in the region on both investment and trade issues. But that has to go step by step. So, China has promoted the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and it never invited the US to join. I think we have talked to China about the importance of reassuring the negotiation of those agreements. That would be incompatible not only with us but with other groups in TPP. The trade issue around the world is very complicated. So the optimistic view is that the TPP would become a reality. The US congress will agree and various bodies of other countries will agree. China will

eventually join, and the succession of China joining would strengthen the TPP and also reinforce reforms in the Chinese economy. And in my mind, the TPP would be a broader Asian Pacific economic region, but we are talking about 20 to 50 years of hard work. I was in the government just a few years at the end of 1990' at the the US National Security Council during the Clinton Administration. My responsibility covered many aspects of Asia. What I found was that the most difficult issues are related to trade. The reason for this is that every country capitalizes "am I going to win or am I going to lose?" or "Am I going to make money or am I going to lose money?", and it becomes very difficult to get everyone's agreement.

How does the US see China's lower growth rate?

I think the US strongly supports the structural reforms of the Chinese economy that have been happening over the past few decades. We hope those reforms continue.

Secondly, the speed of Chinese economic growth is not what's key to the US. It is the quality of growth, whether the Chinese economy is

more open, whether the economic development is less damaging to the environment. So, the US truly wishes for China's healthy development. I think the big concern in the US is about the treatment of foreign enterprises in China. We are negotiating on bilateral investment treaties. Openness is very valuable in the service sector and China remains very closed, and most competitors in the US are concerned about having restricted access to the Chinese economy. But more than that, the Chinese economy especially in the summer when the stock market went down, it was worrisome time. And also the way currency valuation was handled was worrisome to the US. So people in the US were looking for confidence from what President Xi, that reforms would continue and the quality of decision-making is good.

Kenneth G. Lieberthal

Kenneth Lieberthal is a senior fellow in Foreign Policy and Global Economy and Development at Brookings. From 2009 to 2012, Lieberthal served as the director of the John L. Thornton China Center. Lieberthal was a professor at the University of Michigan from 1983 to 2009. He has authored 24 books and monographs and over 70 articles, mostly dealing with China. He also served as special assistant to the president for national security affairs and senior director for Asia on the National Security Council from August 1998 to October 2000. His government responsibilities encompassed US policy for Northeast, East, and Southeast Asia.



Professor Wang Deming and the Origins of Seed Plants

by Liu Xiaoxuan

When we arrived at Professor Wang's office, which is located in a humble and old building near the east gate of Peking University, he was especially amiable and hospitable towards our intrusion. The office was small and was full of piles of books concerning paleontology.

Recently, a group led by Professor Wang has published two important articles about the earliest spermatophytes in the Late Devonian era, which enable academia to have



a deeper insight into the origin of seed plants. Their research also concluded the magnification of spermatophyte's palaeogeographic distribution. The first research paper was published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* on October 14, 2015, and was titled "Latisemenia longshania, gen. et sp. nov., a new Late Devonian seed plant from China". The second research paper was published in the *Nature Scientific Reports* on May

29, 2015, and was titled "A Late Devonian Fertile Organ with Seed Plant Affinities from China".

We sat down with Professor Wang to discuss his findings and the challenges he overcame.

Q: Can you give a simple description of your team and your research direction?

A: Our team has been devoted to research on the earliest of seed plants in the Late Devonian era, and by the means of reaffirming the results of previous work, comparing the new findings in China with prior ev-

idence, and undertaking creative work on a systematic basis. Most of

our outdoor work was carried out around Tai Lake basin and we focused our research in Changxing district, located in Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province.

Other countries began the research the earliest of seed plants nearly one hundred years ago while China is still in the beginning stage. Our country is one of the most valuable geological resources in the world. With the support and assistance of the university, the National Natural Science Fund (NSFC), the government, international collaboration, teachers

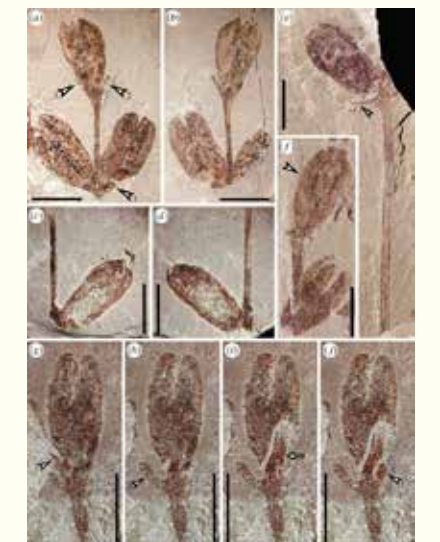
and students of our field, our group successfully made some significant discoveries.

Q: Did your group begin the project ten years ago?

A: Yes. We did not find any fossils in the first two years. It was in 2002 when we found some important clues that enabled us to make some progress and give us an incentive to conduct more research. Where there is a will, there is a way. We found fossils in 2002, 2007, and 2013 and we spent the following two years doing laboratory study.

Q: Does all research in the paleontological field last for such a long period?

A: Most of them, yes. Apart from finding appropriate and precious fossils, we need to undergo many procedures including repairing specimens, which resembles embroidering, making slices to uncover their intrin-



sic structures, and summarizing and extracting useful information before finally publishing the paper.

Q: Several months ago, the media coverage of the sole graduate in PKU whose majored in paleontology in PKU became the focus of public attention. What is your attitude towards the phenomenon?

A: Many people have asked me about the coverage since it became the focus of public attention.

Actually, PKU has many students who are pursuing paleontology. However, only the Yuanpei College offers the major of paleontology due to regulations. At the same time, many students from the School of Earth and Space Sciences majoring in geology and geochemistry have the option of narrowing their direction towards the field of paleontology. The media coverage only took the student from Yuanpei College into consideration, inevitably leading to the misunderstanding of the number of students in the field of paleontology.

Also, it is understandable that paleontology, unlike theoretical physics, may not be able to attract so many students. Fortunately, we still have

many students with deep passion for the subject. For instance, one of my students, Liu Le, from the Yuanpei College will be finishing his Ph.D degree after six years of dedication and research, and now he is making some significant discoveries in his Ph.D study. It is his passion and parents' support that have helped him overcome the difficulties of research work.

As a result, the media may have overgeneralized the phenomenon in a gesture to draw public attention, which is a double-edged sword. On one hand, some students interested in paleontology will be hesitant to choose the major because of regulation restrictions, on the other hand, the public will pay more attention to the paleontological field and give rise to more students' who are interested in the area.

Q: Can you introduce us the development of paleontology around the world?

A: As far as I am concerned, paleontology is the combination of geology and biology. The development of the subject cannot be accelerated without economic advancement,

which is the key reason why our country fell behind in the beginning. I deeply appreciate the transformation of research conditions after the Chinese economic reforms. Our country invests a lot in the area. For instance, the '973 Project', 'the National Natural Science Fund' and many other supportive projects undeniably

facilitate the development of paleontology.

I am grateful for the growing interest in paleontology, which has been supported by a booming Chinese economy. Compared to the supportive policies and financial support of the Chinese government, some foreign governments have gradually attached less importance to this area of research due to the economic recessions of the past few years, leading to greater difficulties in applying for foreign research grants—even for famous professors. Material wealth is the foundation of research, and thanks to the rapid development of the Chinese economy, we can expect a bright future of paleontology in China.

Q: Other countries have done a lot to facilitate the spread of basic subjects. For instance, some American series have casted characters who are paleontologists to increase the awareness of the subject. What do you think of such kind of cultural permeation? What can we do to enhance our society's recognition of paleontology?

A: I really appreciate such kind of permeation. As far as I know, collecting fossils and visiting museums are indispensable parts for education in other countries, which undoubtedly deepens their understanding of nature and stimulates their passion for self-exploration.

In China, some Chinese universities have begun to take on more social responsibility, and have contributed a lot to popularize the sciences, including paleontology.

Peking University has a geology museum, which is attracting more and more teenagers to gain an insight into prehistoric findings. It is encouraging to know that some of them

display great initiative in contacting professors of PKU to report on their own findings.

Also, we have websites which is intended for fossil lovers, amateurs, and experts to communicate with each other. Some of the findings of the fossil lovers play quite an irreplaceable role in that they help make up for the time and limits of professional research.

Lastly, we are willing to add elec-

tive courses on paleontology in PKU to make paleontology more popular throughout China.

Conclusion

After completing the interview, Professor Wang was eager to ask us if his answers were enough, and expressed his hope that we show pictures of his research instead of his own image—his humbleness greatly

moved us. From working in remote areas without transportation, to having to juggle between muddy stone pits to a tranquil laboratory, the long-term devotion, consistent passion and perseverance displayed by Professor Wang is a good example of a Chinese intellectual. Hopefully, this image can motivate college students to be steadfast in pursuing their dreams, and overcome the difficulties and challenges in undertaking research work.

Journalism is Addictive

✉ Dohun Na & Yue Xin

**“Bisa ambil foto bareng?”
(Can we take a photo
together?)**

Dressed in a furry cute outfit and a traditional Indonesian mask, Satria Sambijantoro was a little surprised when he found someone in front of his booth at International Cultural Festival, asking for a selfie together in his mother tongue.

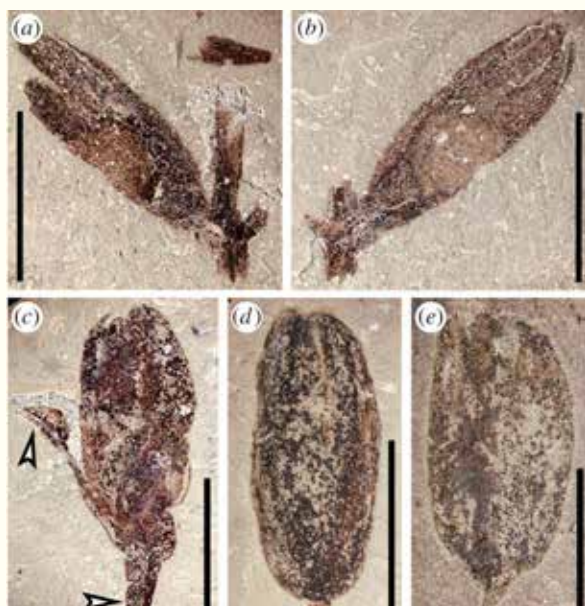
Satria has been at Peking University for three months, and is currently in his first year of Master's program at the School of Government. Before

coming to China, he graduated from Universitas Indonesia majoring in economics and spent the following four years as a journalist at the Jakarta Post, writing over a hundred articles for Indonesia's largest English-language newspaper and making his way to become a correspondent at the Indonesian Presidential Palace.

Compared to his days in the media industry, a typical day of Satria in Peking University is seen as equally exciting, but vastly different. He goes to the emergency stairs area during class to perform one of his five daily Muslim prayers, he quickly returns to

Professor Zhang Jian's classroom, enjoying his favorite class Chinese Politics and Public Policy. “My professor is much like an activist than an academician,” recalled Satria in a Facebook post, eagerly sharing his China experience with his friends back home, “as a Ph.D. from Columbia University, he would enter the classroom with T-shirt and jeans, explaining in fluent English that we do not need to be afraid to criticize.” The lively classroom atmosphere overturned Satria's past assumptions of China.

Wang Moru, one of Satria's classmates, believes Satria is an intelligent



student who “likes to ask intriguing questions in class”. The questions originate from Satria’s journalism background and are often connected with his unique experience: “Because of my background as a journalist, I’m accustomed to ask sensitive, difficult questions – those with information that people want to hear, but are too afraid to ask.”

With four years of experience in the media group that posted “always bold, always independent” on its official Twitter, Satria has seen the President in an arm’s distance, as well as read foreign newspapers deep in the slum of Jakarta with straight-“A” fifth graders and their siblings huddling around and listening with the greatest attention.

Nevertheless, the most interesting part of being a journalist, according to Satria himself, was that politicians, businessmen and CEOs would often attempt to influence his writing through materialistic temptations. “When you get increasing fame, maybe they would bribe you with cars or even women,” said one of Satria’s editors with a smile. The editor was once given a large bag with Rp 500 million (\$35,805.98) from a governmental agency but firmly refused the offer.

Satria has been keeping the same integrity, making it quite common for him to get phone calls from important people criticizing him for articles pointed at them. “In one busy night in the office, my cellphone rang with the central bank Governor’s name showing up on the screen,” fresh memories coming back as Satria was writing his article Making Journalism Cool Again. Voice shaking with fury, the governor lashed out “kurang ajar (‘lack of education’; disrespectful)”, a derogative term used for chastisement

in Bahasa Indonesia. Yet, when he told this story during our interview, he simply acknowledged “It is always adrenaline-pumping to know that what I write has the ability to influence.”

As his vocation goes, a thought sprouted from Satria’s mind that a degree in economics was not enough. “As a journalist, you have to understand that there are certain political aspects and those aspects in political law require us to put economic policies into practice,” explained Satria, “Public policy is the link between politics and economics so it is not really ‘shifting’, and studying public policy completes my whole experience.”

After receiving a Chinese Government Scholarship, “My friends and family were perplexed and confused”, admitted a laughing Satria, “Even my boss doubted my decision of going to China.” However, never has Satria regretted coming to China. “The International Students Division really take good care of you. Accommodation, all those permits, documents, they will take care of everything. They were really helpful with that.” Besides, in contrast to one of the editors in his workplace who graduated from a top university in the UK yet lamented what has been learnt there were inapplicable in an emerging economy like Indonesia, he found out that the story of China’s economic development and policymaking approach were very relevant to the current situation of his home country.

His satisfaction does not only originate from an academic field. Satria loves the fact that he can enjoy halal food in Beijing and that there is a special cafeteria in PKU that caters only to Muslims. “The Tongyuan cafeteria near the tennis court only serves Muslims during lunch time. I see this



as a privilege to Muslim students. I’m happy with that!” says a grinning Satria. What was a surprise for him as well was number of mosques in Beijing that are packed with people from both China and abroad during the Friday prayer: “I could say that the Chinese government treats the Muslims really well, and Indonesia can also learn from the way people of China treat their minorities.”

Though having returned to the campus life, Satria maintains most of his long-formed habits as a journalist. Besides secretly reading Indonesian newspapers every morning and comparing the analytical qualities of their stories, he would also keep a journal of brand-new Chinese experiences on Facebook. Among all the beautiful sceneries, what has been featured most was snow: the snowy campus, snow-capped mountains, group hiking in a snowy field of Longquan Village, and skiing in Tianjin. “I have always wanted to see snow since I

was 5 years old,” wrote Satria the day he saw his first snow in Beijing. “This morning, I turned into the kid in Christmas movies, with glowing eyes as he looked to the falling snow through the windows for the first time ever.”

“Whether you like it or not, you

“ Because of my background as a journalist, I’m accustomed to ask sensitive, difficult questions – those with information that people want to hear, but are too afraid to ask. ”

NEED to learn about this country,” Satria emphasized when asked to give advice to prospective international students considering a master’s degree at PKU, “you will have to enrich your studies by immersing yourself

in journals, presentations, and other reading materials. I think the studying experience at PKU depends on how committed you are to the learning experience.” With an ambitious plan of improving Chinese proficiency, covering academic journals and tourism as much as possible, Satria

is always stepping out of his comfort zone. “When we have dinner in the cafeteria together, Satria would deliberately go to the window to order and try to pronounce the Chinese name of the dish he ordered,”

said Judy, one of his friends and language partner, “that daily practice and interactions have helped him make amazing progress.”

The adventures of Satria in China will continue; yet from time to time,

he would click into the WhatsApp group of the Jakarta Post and read his colleagues’ discussion of their daily reporting assignments. “They said journalism is addictive, and only now I feel that it is indeed true.” Throughout our interview – with the one too accustomed to be the interviewer as the interviewee – Satria expressed his visceral gratitude towards journalism for shaping him to be better person and bringing him a sense of realization.

“Journalism is the most underrated job ever, but this job is much nobler than money. Being a journalist made me become lebih dewasa (more mature), as the demand of the profession contributes immensely to one’s personal development.”

His name representing “warrior” in his local language, Satria articulated with confidence, “I never wanted to work in the private sector and work just to benefit the companies; on the contrary, I wanted to contribute to society.”



Sounds of Music at the Night of Beijing Forum

by Liu Meina

On the Night of Beijing Forum 2015, PINE League Student Choir Festival was held at the Peking University (PKU) Hall on November 7, 2015. The Hong Kong University Students' Union Choir, Taiwan University Medical Chorus, and PKU Student Choir performed during the event.

To begin the evening, Professor Ye Jingyi, Vice Chairwoman of the Peking University Council, praised the establishment of the PINE League last year and encouraged students from PINE League universities to nurture long-lasting friendships. The PINE League, formed in August last year, seeks to bring together the best universities of the Chinese-speaking

region to serve as an inter-school sports, cultural, and academic platform to facilitate exchanges and mutual learning.

Nations, and former United Nations and Arab League Special Envoy for Syria, and his wife Mrs. Brahimi; Iqbal Riza, Special Advisor to the UN

“ The PINE League, formed in August last year, seeks to bring together the best universities of the Chinese-speaking region to serve as an inter-school sports, cultural, and academic platform to facilitate exchanges and mutual learning. ”

It was well received by invited guests and audiences. Among the guests were Lakhdar Brahimi, former Undersecretary General of the United

Secretary-General; Mr. Park In-kook, President of Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS); and Prof. Chang Ching-Ray, Vice President of

Taiwan University. Representatives from PINE League universities, mainly distinguished scholars and students, were also present.

At the festival, the first to perform was Hong Kong University's Student Union Choir, which sang four songs: A Choral Fanfare, Seven Poems by Robert Bridges: My Spirit Sang All Day, Spring Dawn, and Swazhie Gat Umbe from Carmina Burana. They were followed by Taiwan University's Medical Chorus that sang

Kyrie Eleison, the Pearl of the Pacific Ocean, Lift Every Voice and Sing, Ose Shalom, and Yue Qin. Lastly, the PKU Student Choir sang Lux Aurumque, Mate Saule, A Dream Strain, and Karimatanu Kuicha. After the school performances, the three university choirs sang You Raise Me Up together and brought the event to its peak.

Under the auspices of Chinese Ministry of Education and State Council of China, and supported by the Beijing Municipal Government,

the Beijing Forum has been held annually since 2004. It is an international academic event co-sponsored by PKU, the Beijing Municipal Commission on Education, and the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies. This year, under the sub-theme of "Different Paths with Common Responsibilities", over 400 eminent scholars, experts, and officials from around the globe gathered in Beijing to attend the forum, demonstrating the event's relevance and prestige.

A Date with Flowers Botanical Aesthetics Appreciation Class

by Zhou Hui Ying

- Flowers are the symbols of beauty.
- Arranging flowers is a long and fascinating process.
- Put a cluster of flowers in a vase and place it near a wooden window-sill;
- Scatter water on the petal and enjoy the lovely bounce of the crystal drops.
- With the company of plants and flowers, we can obtain sweet tranquility inside our heart and discover a piece of happiness in our life. Let's have a date with flowers and experience the charm of flower arrangements!

On October 25, 2015, as part of the Peking University International Culture Festival 2015, the Floral & Life: Botanical Aesthetics Appreciation Class was held. Mr. Cao Xue, the instructor, led us on a journey into the artistic world of flower arrangement.

Pursuing an Artistic Attitude Towards Life

Cao Xue is a well-known floral design artist who was honored as "Magician in Floral Design", founded an online sharing platform for botanical aesthetics named "Floral & Life". He is also a certified professor at the American Floral Art School, a distin-

guished lecturer in the Academy of Arts & Design of Tsinghua University and a member of the World Flower



Council. He also provides floral arrangements for many celebrity parties

“He emphasized that flower arranging is the convergence of discovering, appreciating, and creating beauty.”

and banquets. His floral art work, no matter classical or modern, is full of poetry, beauty, and reflects his love of life.

At the beginning of the class, he introduced the artistic theory of flower arrangement. “Flowers are not just associated with commercial activities; it also represents a sort of lifestyle

and an artistic attitude towards life.” Cao Xue believes that everyone is able to find, appreciate, and create beauty, and we should not treat life as something dull or boring. Instead, we should pursue an artistic attitude towards life and try to make life more lively and colorful.

He emphasized that flower arranging is the convergence of discovering, appreciating, and creating beauty. Flower arranging is also a long fascinating process, for the design is morphed by time and your patience. As it is branded with the creator’s personalities and emotion, it is more precious as a gift than the ordinary scattered flowers. According to Cao Xue, “Modern people are usually at a loss when they prepare gifts. Preparing a mini bouquet by yourself is a good choice. Through your unique design, your sincerity and best wishes can be conveyed to your friends.”

Making a Mini Bouquet

After introducing his artistic theory of flower arrangement, he went on to instruct how to make a mini bouquet: “Please remember that the bouquet is a reflection of yourself. The way you arrange the flowers, including the order, color, size, and other details of the bouquet reflects who you are.” Cao Xue encouraged participants of the class to be relaxed and to create their design by following their hearts.

Before arranging the flowers, preparations ought to be made as well—choosing fresh flowers and removing unwanted leaves. Cao Xue said that the conditions of flowers are important. If the flowers were withered, the beauty of bouquet would be reduced, and it will not accurately display your sincerity. He iterated the basic principles of

selecting flowers. For example, we should be aware the right season for specific flowers, where the flowers grow, and the conditions of stem and leaves. The flowers that were prepared for the class are *Eustoma grandiflorum*, hydrangea, ping-pang chrysanthemum, and white gentian. Cao Xue gave brief introductions of each type of flower, including the optimum temperature for their growth, the proper way to handle their leaves, and what each flower represents.

Then, he started teaching the first step in making a mini bouquet, which is to gather scattered flowers in a certain order. Cao Xue demonstrated the right way to hold flowers—holding the stem at about 15 centimeters from the top with your whole palm. Then, he set the hydrangea as the center, surround the other types of flowers around it, and then try to shape it into a cambered surface, making the bouquet appear plumper.

After which, the next step is to cut off the redundant parts of stems. Using a pair of scissors, cut off 10 to 20-centimeter of the stems from the bottom, and make sure that all stems are of equal length. Then, one should fix the bouquet by using adhesive tape to tie the stem to where your hands are holding. The purpose of this step is to make a plastic container for water, so that the flowers can last longer. He then instructed students to wrap the bouquet with cellophane. After finishing these previous steps, the students had a basic bouquet. From there,



the students continued to decorate the bouquets with wrapping paper.

During the class, Cao Xue provided the procedure of making a mini bouquet while simultaneously interacting with the participants, answering their questions, and helping them with improving their arrangement. He stressed repeatedly that the way you arrange flowers indicates your personalities, so there is no fixed standard method for arranging flowers. The only standard is inside each individual’s heart. The participants commented that Cao Xue not only has a fine taste in flower arrangement, but is a very approachable instructor. For instance, when one of the participants arranged too many pink flowers together, Cao Xue commented that: “You are too outgoing!”

After the class, many participants were eager to take a picture with the popular instructor. In the end, the participants and Cao Xue took a group picture together. When asked about her reflections and opinions of the class, a girl said, “I enjoy this

class very much. I have learned how to make a mini bouquet, and the instructor’s artistic and poetic attitude towards life impressed me a lot. It reminded me of the beauty, poetry, and happiness of life.”

The participants took the bouquets they made home as a souvenir for the event. When asked, one of the participant commented, “I’m so lucky to be one of the students of this class, because I have heard that many students who applied for the class were not able to participate because the class was so popular. I’m so glad that we can bring our bouquets back home, so that I can put it in my dormitory and make my room really beautiful and artistic.”

To take a leaf out of Cao Xue’s book of philosophy, I would like to recommend to all to take a break from your busy schedules and have a date with flowers. Get away from the noisy roads and tiny electrical screens to enjoy flowers and pursue an artistic attitude towards life, this is how you will find life’s beauty and attain happiness.





Act! Bringing Medicine into Humanities

The 8th Medical Humanities Week-English Play Competition

Wei Wei

The 8th Medical Humanities Week - English Play Competition was held on October 16, 2015, at the Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC). Eight fabulous English plays, completely written and directed by students, made it through the preliminary round, and this was the night for them to shine on the stage and to evoke deep insightful thoughts concerning medicine in the humanities.

The English play competition is an annual event organized by staff and students from the PUHSC School of Foundational Education, as part of the International Medical Humanities Conference. This year, the judges comprised of professors and staff from Peking University, King's College London, the University of Sydney, the University of Edinburgh, and the Wellcome Trust, UK. The themes of these 7-minute plays covered a spectrum of controversial issues such as euthanasia, surrogacy, end-of-

life care, doctor-patient relationship, professional ethics of doctors, head transplantation, and the struggling control group in a clinic trial.

After immersing in the two-hours thrill ride full of ups and downs, joy and sorrow, peace and fury, gratification and pity, it came down to the moment of triumph when the winners were announced. A high quality production titled Barry outperformed the other finalists and received the highest honor. It was a story of Barry, a dying young man suffering from an incurable disease, who was "sentenced to death" by the doctor. He had a tough decision to make in face of his extremely limited lifespan. He could either continue the painful treatment in hospital to procure a chance which might prolong his life for a little while or spend his last precious time in a more meaningful way with his beloved ones.

The audience was touched by the tender scenes of interaction between Barry and his mother and began to

empathize with the poor but brave patient who was portrayed as an optimistic young man with vibrant dreams and passion for life. After learning about the disease from the doctor and a nearly fatal attack, the internal conflict intensified. It reached an eye-catching climax in an act when four little figures donning the same masks and pajamas emerged in Barry's dream of confusion and dilemma. There were interesting interactions, including carefully crafted dialogues and choreography, among the four figures, who represented not only different views regarding Barry's dilemma, but also meant to present various views of the general public on this issue. They were highly commended by the judges and audience to have acted in a dramatic manner to develop the plot, generate the theme, and strike a chord in the audience's heart.

The champions, which was a team made up of ten students majoring in biomedical English, shared their ex-

perience of the effort they put it and their passion for acting. In terms of creating the characters and the story, it was an idea that first developed in a creative writing workshop, in which the majority of team members were all participants. It was not all smooth sailing though, as according to a member, the team faced a challenge when attempting to reach a consensus when selecting a theme. It took the team a long time, including spending the whole night debating before finalizing on the final them. Often, they had different perspectives and ideas, and this forced them to rewrite the main part of the play multiple times.

Moreover, they wrote most of the script after the casting so that the particular actors could be involved in the creative process. The actors designed their own lines which was more natural and efficient, since it is relatively easier for every actor to put themselves into these specific situations, and come out with the corresponding dialogues. Under the atmosphere of cooperation and friendship, they benefited a lot from the multiple rehearsals by learning from each other.

The play Barry was such an impressive production, combining elements of both reality and fantasy.

In a long monologue by Barry in the play, he said that it was not about two different ways of dying, but how to live on. The play hoped to inspire a discussion of how to meaningfully spend our lives, and what it meant to live a high-quality life when we realize our limited time. This, in fact, applies to anyone at any time and inspired the audience, since human life is always limited but we do not know exactly when the end will come.

The other plays also raised their own issues which are profound and thought-provoking in their own rights. One of the plays discussed the potential ethical crisis and chaos that future head transplantation surgery can cause, including issues in self-recognition and relationships with others. Another play told a tragic story of a young couple who were desperate to continue their bloodline but unable to bear a child. Therefore, they tried surrogacy but unfortunately got cheated. The wife ended up committing suicide in the depths of despair, which pushed the audience to reflect on not only the trigger of the inci-

dent, but also the root causes of it in the aspects of cultural traditions as well as ethical and law-related problems of surrogacy. Most plays were inclined to end with open endings which could give rise to plausible critical thinking of the difficult problems, rather than to come up with a definite answer or solution.

The thought-provoking English play competition eventually con-

After immersing in the two-hour thrill ride full of ups and downs, joy and sorrow, peace and fury, gratification and pity, it came down to the moment of triumph when the winners were announced.

cluded, after numerous thought-provoking performances regarding the meanings of medical humanities from different angles. At the same time, the plays encouraged and helped medical students to engage in the process of developing and, in return, interpreting their unique understanding of essential issues of medical humanities. Dr. John Davy, a teacher at PUHSC who has been working on the event for years, commented that the competition allows people to see things in a different way, which is to see the human side of the medicine by using humanities including art, drama, poetry, films, and other methods. He concluded that the play competition has two far-reaching aspects. On one hand, it is about medical humanities issues. From another view, it is also using play as a different way to inspire people to think deeply about medical and ethical issues.



Wellspring

An Exhibit of Cultural Heritage & the Launching Ceremony for the Inaugural Cultural Heritage Creative Design Competition

✎ Sienna Luk

This year, “Wellspring: An Exhibit of Cultural Heritage” and the Launching Ceremony for the Inaugural “Cultural Heritage Creative Design Competition for College & University Students” was held in the Exhibition Hall of the Peking University Hall. The exhibition, which lasted for three days, presented a few pieces of marvelous designs as an example of current creative design. Moreover, a unique competition held by the School of Archaeology and Museology was initiated this

year. The Cultural Heritage Creative Design Competition gave students a chance to brain storm, unveil and combine the art of tradition and modernity into our daily lives.

The opening ceremony was hosted by Professor Hang Kan, Dean of the School of Archaeology and Museology, with a speech given by Vice Chairman of the University Council, Professor Ye Jingyi. Quoted from her speech, “Cultural heritage not only represents the past, but it is also an attitude that we own when facing the past; which eventually affects

how the future looks at us.” She encouraged young people to explore Chinese heritage, and to convert their experience to realities with the power of innovation.

The second speaker was Professor Donald Stone from School of Foreign Languages. He first excerpted a quote from Shakespeare, “Whereof what’s past is prologue” and he continued, “what happened in the past is the anticipation of what might happen in the future.” Chinese culture has its advantage of absorbing and modifying others’ cultures into



its own unique one. Recently, Professor Donald Stone also contributed some Picasso’s great pieces to the Sackler Museum at Peking University, which will also be exhibited in November.

Tian Kai, Director of the Henan Museum then delivered his speech, “There is no tradition, but relative innovation.” For one thing, the features of Chinese heritage have changed throughout history. “We not only inherit culture from our ancestors, but also create our own features of the era. Innovating is like flying a kite. No matter how far it goes, it will always connect to the origin with the string of tradition.”

After the speakers cut the ribbon, the exhibition officially commenced. The exhibition was mainly divided into three sections. The first one was Prevalence of Cultural Heritage-Inspired Creations. Located near the entrance, people can see a few delicate cups sit on the table, and in the center lays a Chinese style tray. If people observe it closely, they can find that the cup’s handle design is composed of one of the ancient elements—the Jade Dragon, which is a precious heritage from Neolithic

Age. There are also a variety of works exhibited in this unit. However, they all have one thing in common, which is the combination of aesthetic value and practical function. This is the core value that current creative design pursues.

The second exhibition was called the Diversity of Cultural Heritage-Inspired Creations. In this section, people can learn more about creative design by reading the introduction on exhibiting boards. In addition, this unit emphasized the recreation and various applications of art works. For instance, many paper tapes with beautiful ancient patterns on are gathered to form a unique decoration. Furthermore, this unit also exhibits some cultural heritage photographs from passionate teachers and students. Those photos directly reveal the genius of ancient people, and the crystallization of the art.

When it comes to creativity, sometimes kids excel all the others. Therefore, the third exhibition is Genius Adding Ingenuity. They were art works made by children whose ages range from five to ten. If people looked at the symbol near

the exhibition’s title carefully, they will see an owl face. The owl face symbol derived from “Xiao Zun”, meaning the owl head; it was also a bronze made in Shang Dynasty. Therefore, the topic for children was alternating the mysterious owl face, adding imagination, and generates incredible art works. The experience showed the importance of how people should shake off the stereotypes when encountering creative designs. It was a note not only to the viewers, but also to designers in every field.

In fact, people should notice that cultural heritage creative design is actually a quite new field, but it is getting more and more popular lately. Not only museums are eager to promote their key highlights of the collection, but those creative designs become a financial source and tourists’ attraction. People visited the museum, and leave with souvenirs; and to make these souvenirs not just a souvenir, it should contain more educational and memorial significance. For an instance, a tie is not just a tie. When people wear it to a banquet, they can introduce the cultural meanings to other guests; it is both fashion and decent.

The same day afternoon, there was another session “The Modern Vitality of Cultural Heritage”, in which honored guests including curators from Guangdong Province Museum, Hubei Province Museum, Shanxi Museum, Henan Museum, National Museum of China, and famous designer getting together, discussing the progress of cultural heritage creative design. The host was Hang Kan, Director of the School of Archaeology and Museology. He was the main force of promoting many

related activities with the help of his students.

The opening was surely astonishing when seeing some students walking toward the stage with scarf designed by the local museums. Of course, those scarfs were not merely scarfs; they were composed of ancient flower figures. Same ideology was adopted in the next few exhibitions.

People's attention would be attracted by the unique creative designs each museum presents. Guangdong Province museum brought embroidery illustrated with an art work from Ming Dynasty and a museum-shaped Duan ink stone. Hubei Province Museum introduced the exactly copy of Yuan-yang jewel box, and portable charger embellished with pattern from the Yuan-yang jewel box. Shanxi Museum showed guests with Xiao-you cup (Xiao-you is famous for the looks similar to the angry bird) and portable Fu Shan calligraphy lamp. Henan Museum demonstrated their pottery twin pot feature and a watch decorated with nine of their highlight collections in the museum. Finally, National Museum of China presented a tea set, urging to raise people's awareness of Chinese tea culture. Another design was an aroma stove, which originated from a bronze ice basin; and the basin is said to be the first refrigerator in the world.

Coming next was a discussion about "The core element of classic". The directors of museums discussed about their own experiences of marketing creative design; and they were going to give advices to students who wanted to compete in the creative design contest.

Li Liusan, the director of National Museum of China discussed about the cultural heritage creative design should stay with three principles: utilizing safe and environmental material, maintaining the originality of the design, as well as functioning well and realistic. He urged to develop relative educational program in the university. Also, cooperatives should put more strength on encouraging student to design.

Tian Kai, Director of Henan Museum, gave a speech on how a creative design proceeded from design to market. He believes that museums not only shoulder the responsibility of preserving and spreading the culture, but they are the pioneer of cultural innovation. Furthermore, he presented the work of a first prize winner in Henan creative design competition. The idea of work was from a cultural relic in Tang Dynasty. Due to the relic contains a meaning of absolution, the designer made an eraser that has the exact appearance. Therefore, using the eraser also symbolizes an action of absolution.

One of the judges in the competition explained the perspective of the competition. His advice to students is learning the ancient techniques, pursuing the spirit, studying our age, and translating it to our language. In this way, he expects a lot of great work form students. An architect then shared her thought. She considered that "innovation is knowledge to contemporary." Moreover, from the ancient relics, we can feel the emotion, vitality, and philosophy of the past; which is a scene we seldom see in the modern world. A huge difference between creative design

and common factory product is the former contains humanity, and that matters a lot.

Lastly, the representative of Shanxi Museum introduced more than four hundred creative design products, including handcrafts art, commodities, and children's toys. Their aim is to create a "mobile museum", conveying the idea of bringing the museum experience home. Thus, the presentation showed examples of how to arrange creative designs into real home.

All in all, learning from the past is a catalyst for invention. What makes cultural heritage creative design distinct from others is that it is a mixture of culture, imagination, and design; and keeping those elements in our daily lives will surely bring us a surprise.



Enactus

Opportunity + Action = Progress

▣ Zhang Rutian

Enactus is a community of students, academic, and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a better, more sustainable world. The abbreviation is comprised of the three words "Entrepreneurial", "Action", and "Us". Among the 226 universities which make up this big family, Peking University (PKU) stands out as a great contributor, providing a wide range of talents.

Just in the last year at PKU Enactus, a team of sixty-one have worked a combined total of 1,584 hours over four projects. Members, through their talent and hard work, demonstrated

that real progress can be achieved through entrepreneurial action.

Helper

This project originated from a survey in PKU about the satisfaction of current students' with their major, where a surprisingly high 21.4% of all students said they wanted to change, or at least had the intention to change their major. In order to provide advice for students, to help them find a suitable major and subsequent career path, the project 'Helper' was conceived.

A brief outline of the business model is as follows: members of the PKU 'Helper' program visit high

schools to reach out to students. They communicate both face-to-face and through online platforms, during which educational institutions help to provide an occupational evaluation for students' reference. High school students who get admitted into PKU can then repay the favor and contribute by joining the PKU 'Helper' project. Rather than just limiting itself just to one university, the PKU 'Helper' program can also expand to other universities, which will in turn help to establish contacts and provide more possibilities in the future.

The formation of this team brings several advantages. Its general aim is for improved public welfare, which in this case is provided through imme-

diate and accurate information and life path guidance for high school students.

PKU 'Helper' has gathered professional information from China's other top universities and industries to further this project. With a team of twenty-five elite instructors, and six university simulation camps, influence has expanded to six high schools.

In the future, PKU 'Helper' intends to make the western area of China their new focus and promote educational equality. The members are willing to help students in regions where access to information is scarcer. They have reached an agreement with Quanren Horizon Tech Co. Ltd, which plans to provide Xinjiang province with better education. They aim to provide information via a wireless device, and to get children off to better starts in their lives with greater knowledge than they would have had otherwise.

See the Lotus

'See the Lotus' is a hospice care project. The Wanming Hospice (in Daxing District, Beijing) is facing a serious dilemma: It receives little financial backing from the government, and despite its humanistic values, it lacks recognition from society, and it – like many other hospices – runs into many obstacles. These continuous financial problems have led to an instability in patient resources at the hospice.

To deal with these problems, Enactus has combined business consulting, hospice research, and voluntary support to improve the hospice's profit-generating ability. Through long-term on-site research, the 'See the Lotus' program discovers problems and finds solutions by means of general observation and interviews with the hospice's staff and patients. The members reveal problems of the hospital and propose improvement

reports with professional business analysis. They voluntarily get involved with hospital development, and provide technical assistance to staff members.

The project already boasts a number of achievements. Economically speaking, 'See the Lotus' has optimized the human resources management system; improving the hospice's procurement plan and expanding patients' access to resources. As for general sustainability and environmental issues, the project has standardized and digitalized financial statements and medical records, revised codes, upgraded the hospice's website, and

provided training on financial statements, medical record writing, and website operation.

With the help of 'See the Lotus', the number of patients in Wanming Hospice has increased significantly, with 60% more patients, and the percentage of absent beds decreased by 80% in the last 12 months. The cost/income disparity has also decreased by twenty percent. This is largely due to the hand the program has had in spreading word of the hospice. Relevant articles were forwarded 5308 times via Wechat; 576 of which were volunteers from technical support and mental care, patients and their families, and staff all from the hospice. All in all, 168 patients and their families have already benefited from project.

Organic Dream

With modern day technological advancements, most people no longer need to worry about food resources. However, people have started to have higher standards for the things they eat everyday: whether they are healthy, or suitable for their particular lifestyle. Organic foods are foods produced by organic farming, free of pesticide and fertilizer. Although the market for organic foods is rapidly growing, not all up-and-coming organic firms manage to fulfil their promise.

'Organic Dream' is targeted at Tongxin Farm – a branch of the Beijing Workers' Home. The project is focused on helping Tongxin Farm restructure its business model by diversifying its publicity and sales channels, and seeking technological support. In this way, the team aids the farm in building a sustainable business model, transforming it into

“ With strong support from different industries and academic circles, and no shortage of talent, PKU Enactus is playing its part in improving people's lives on and off campus by introducing innovative business models. ”

an organic farm whilst also raising its reputation, sales and profits.

Weiming-Ji

As the most well-known university in China, tourists are a common sight on PKU campus. It is only natural that they want to buy some souvenirs after visiting the campus. There are

many shops selling souvenirs on campus right now, but not under official authority, and the quality of the souvenirs varies greatly from one to the next.

'Weiming-Ji' is targeted at Weiming-Ji souvenir shop. Weiming-Ji is the only official authorized souvenir shop on PKU campus. Although in its initial stages it faced financial

deficit, Weiming-Ji has made great improvements to its souvenir design, production, and other commercial processes. They want to have a stable customer base, and perhaps even expand across the rest of the country.

PKU Enactus now has business advisors from KPMG (Klynved Peat Marwick Goerdeler), Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business, Ali-pay, and the Guanghua School of Management. It is also sponsored by Sina Weibo, Uniscan, New Oriental, Walmart, Unilever, and BTV. With strong support from different industries and academic circles, and no shortage of talent, PKU Enactus is playing its part in improving people's lives on and off campus by introducing innovative business models.



The Charm of Cultural Craft Folk Art Tour 2015

✎ Chen Meizhi

The 12th International Cultural Festival of Peking University (PKU) was held on October 25, 2015. The Festival, which popularity and diver-

sity are well known, saw the attendance of ambassadors from twenty countries as well as students from 56 countries in 2014. With its focus on the integration of "love for arts,

creativity, and technology", the festival had various parts to match the topic. There were exhibition booths of different countries, science and technology experience zones, as well





as cultural activities.

The folk art tour, held at New Sun Student Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., consisted of four sections: patchwork, leather sewing, block printing, and an exhibition of folk art works. For the first section, which took two hours, participants were given the opportunity to create their own handmade patchwork, which would serve as the cover of a pocket mirror. The instructor, Mia Zhao, taught all participants how to sew colorful cloths and apply glitter decorations. For the second section, the participants could learn more about basic tools of hand sewing leather and try to make a purse by themselves. Their teacher Haimi, a big fan of handicraft, is an expert on making handmade soaps, toys, and leather. Similar to patchwork, the whole procedure of sewing leather took two hours. For the third section conducted

by Oude Studio of folk art, the participants spread paint on a block, and then covered the block with a piece of paper, and then printed a picture on paper. Block printing may seem simple, but it needs enormous effort to make the picture clear and good-looking. For the last section, Woniu Studio of folk art displayed handicraft works collected from Yuxian, a county in Hebei Province.

At 9 a.m. in the morning, preparation for these four sections were already completed, and visitors began to flow into the center. Some of them decided to take part in the patchwork or leather sewing activity, while others just stood still and appreciated the collection of handicraft works from Yuxian. The author carefully observed a girl doing patchwork. First of all, she was introduced to the whole procedure of the activity, which was choos-

ing the cloth, sewing different pieces together in a special order and finally gluing it to the cover of a folding mirror. The girl then chose some colorful pieces of cloth she liked and started sewing. The sewing method was quite easy but it needed to be repeated for several times. After an hour, the girl finished sewing together those pieces of cloth and decorated her works with pearls and sequins. Eventually, the girl used hot melt adhesive to attach it to the mirror. The patchwork might sound easy or boring, but one could never appreciate the sense of achievement unless he personally engaged in the long and difficult process.

"It was an unforgettable experience." The girl said with a smile on her face, "It did make me feel bored when I kept sitting on my chair for over two hours, but you'll know that things will bring you happiness the time you fin-

ish it completely on your own. More importantly, the activity gave me a chance to get involved in the creation and combination of traditional and modern culture. I was happy."

"Seeing their happy faces, I'm content and it's the feeling I want to convey that nothing can be more enjoyable than immersing yourselves in handicraft." According to instructor Mia, she finds her job to be very fun.

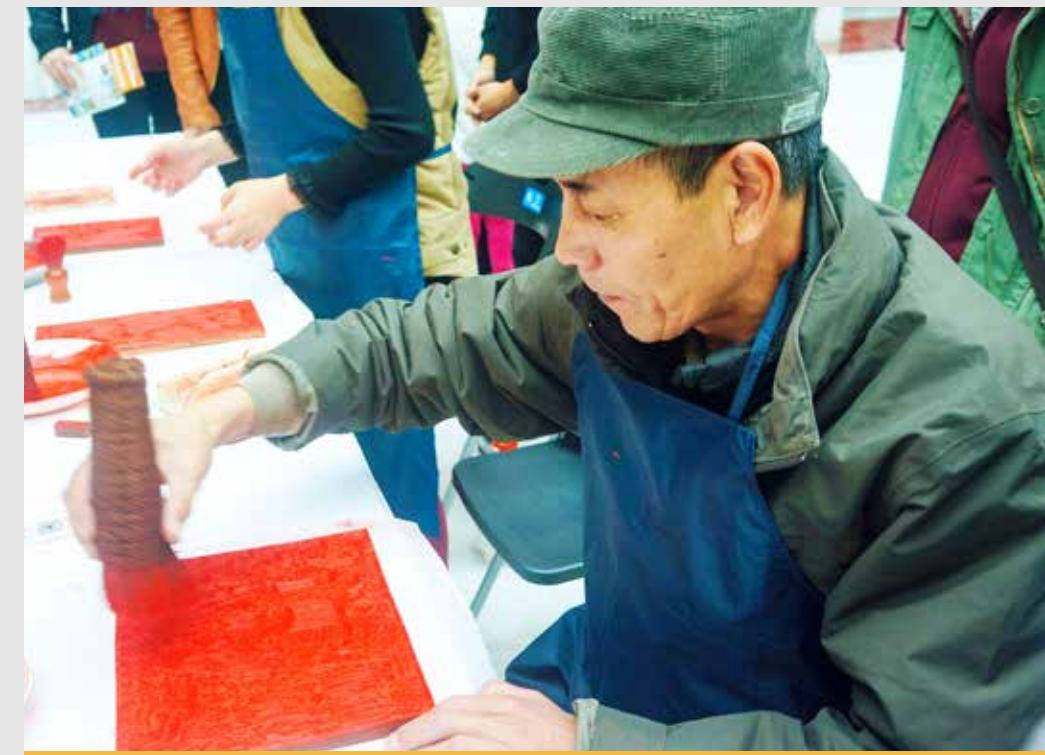
After a deep investigation into the section of patchwork, the author turned to another student who was concentrating on sewing leather. As Haimi said, one ought to pay an inordinate amount of patience if he wants to get himself a handmade leather purse. At the beginning, quite a few visitors gave up experiencing it for the sake of time limit. However, gradually more and more students sat down to the table and Haimi patiently taught them how to use the special hammer and tailor the leather. "This is a meaningful activity for me. I'm always so busy having lessons, attending meetings and writing essays in my daily life. It was precious for me to get down to sewing a purse." One of the participants said with pleasure. Haimi herself is also an amateur, but her passion on folk art have let to her spending a lot of leisure time on handicraft. "That's what I'm interested in all the time.", keeping her eyes on an unfinished purse in her hands, Haimi told me her story, "I got to know handicraft for the first time five years ago, and then I became very fond of it. Unlike Mia, I didn't give up my job and set up a studio of folk art. I always want to keep it as a hobby and experience the surprising joy when I have spare time after work."

Contrary to the quiet atmosphere in those sections mentioned above,

the section of block printing was crowded and many visitors were having an engaging experience in the traditional art. There were different images such as *Daiyu Burying Fallen Flowers* and *Journey to the West*. The section was operated by Oude Studio of folk art, which focused on the popularity of Chinese handicraft. People ranging from the young to the old were seen spreading their block with red paint and printing the picture on a piece of Chinese art paper. The works could be taken away for free so that people can appreciate the magic hidden in traditional Chinese handicraft. "Let me take a photo of them." Mr. Zhang, one of the instructors, said, "I'm so glad to see that the participants are feeling attracted by this kind of art. It may seem quite dull at first sight, but it did inspire the art of printing thousands of years ago and totally change human life since then. We are trying to improve it and to keep pace with the era." As Mr. Zhang

said, this may be the fate of all kinds of traditional folk art. They are faced with the challenge of modern technology and popular culture. Some of them may not be suitable or as efficient as new machines, while others may lose their meaning of existence through the development of human society. That's why we have to improve handicraft itself and expose it to more and more people, so as to inject vigor into old things.

Near the section of block printing was an exhibition of folk art works operated by Woniu Studio of folk art. The staff from Woniu brought some exhibits showcasing ethnic folklore of Hebei Province, as well as their original magazines and photograph albums. Looking at the matting made of straw and bamboo, anyone would feel separated from the modern building, New Sun Student Center. If you were attentive and sensitive enough, you were likely to experience a travel through time and space, and then



lost in thought and aftertaste. In the magazines and photograph albums, one could see the power of plainness and simplicity, as well as the power of the past. People easily got content with daily life, and lived in harmony with nature. Such spirit could be thought-provoking for contemporary world and urbanites. Also, the staff was respectable for making every effort to explore country culture, introducing the beauty of handicraft and giving craftsmen a chance to show their outstanding capability and artistic appreciation. Until now, they have already investigated dozens of villages throughout China.

The folk art tour lasted for almost

a whole day. Unlike the busy display area outdoors, it was quiet and relaxing inside New Sun Student Center. Almost without exception, everyone indicated that they felt closer and more familiar to traditional handicraft. Some of them even said with excitement that they love handicraft and would try more different things by themselves or by attending clubs. Therefore, the purpose of this activity had been achieved, which was to evoke public attention and emotion to folk art on campus, and arousing students' love for it. After all the interviews, the author also experienced patchwork for an hour or two. Visitors staying in the center were decreasing

and the staff have begun to pack up their belongings. Their arrival brought the students something fresh and delightful, enriching our campus life, as well as informing us of the charm of folk art. More importantly, they stimulated our eagerness to learn more about traditional culture. If given a chance, more students would be interested in entering for social practice and social researches during their vacations.

In the end, the folk art tour held in conjunction with the International Cultural Festival of Peking University was a huge success. Many look forward to seeing such enriching activities at the next festival next autumn.

Innovation that Inspires

“See the Future” Science & Technology Experience Zone

✉ Liu Xiya

The Science & Technology Experience Zone event, “See the Future”, was held at Peking University (PKU)

on October 25, 2015. Co-sponsored by Xtecher and iCAN, this experience zone event was held during the PKU International Culture Festival 2015.

Twenty-nine emerging technology companies displayed their newly-published products in the experience zone, which was one of the most popular attractions among all activities that day. Many interviewed expressed their excitement to be part of this celebration of creativity and technology and to meet the amazing minds of the Experience Zone's participants.

Both of the event's sponsors are organizations which mainly focus on scientific innovation. Xtecher is a global social network, which functions as a platform for people to publish their own projects and potentially gain both financial and technological support, as long as the ideas attract the interests from people “in



the same camp”. As for iCAN, which was founded in 2007, it is the first international youth innovation contest in micro/nano fields, and is a collaborative platform among academia and industry to stimulate the innovations of college students in new applications of Nano-Micro technology.

One of the products on display was a special kind of toy racecar, which, incredibly, was totally con-

trolled by the user's mind. The users have to wear special headphone-like device around their heads, which detects brain waves to analyze the current concentration of the users. Through this, the gathered information is quantized and transmitted to the central device of the race cars to complete the task of controlling the speed.

“It (the racecar) can improve the

concentration of people, especially children,” said Fan Yu, one of the founders of the company, as well as a member of the research team. Besides, the race track was originally in pieces, which needs to be assembled by users, which is, quoting Fan, “a very challenging but practical hands-on experience for children”.

Published in July, 2015, Fan and his research and development team have not gotten enough time for publicizing, marketing, and updating. The product has yet not posed a large influence on the market. However, according to the excellent user experience reported by customers over the past months, Mr. Fan's opinion is that prospects seem promising.

If mind control racecars can redefine the forms of entertainment, another product using virtual reality technology might create a profound change on the methods of interior decoration. Traditionally, customers viewed the design through print sketches, which is inadequate to allow interior designers to fully show their work and meet the requests from the customers. Here in House VR, with a head-mounted display, every 2D patterns can be automatically transformed into a 3D model. What is even more surprising is that customers can use the device to revise the design simply by “grabbing” the virtual objects and “moving” them to somewhere that they wish, I tried putting on the device myself, and saw rooms with completed interior design. Since I did not fancy the idea of a vase placed on the shoe cabinet right beside the door, so I “grabbed” it and “moved” it to the table in the dining room. The whole process was as real as stepping into an apartment—so real, that I somehow got a little confused about where exactly I was. I briefly interviewed with Huang Boyuan,



Founder and CEO of the company. He told me that the product was still in the stage of release candidate, which means that more user feedback needs to be accumulated before formal publishing. For Huang and his colleagues, the future remains unknown, "We are pretty optimistic, but also sincerely hopeful for a competitive market performance."

Immediately next to the virtual reality product, was a slogan piquing my curiosity at first glimpse that said, "It's said that 99% of the ladies would say 'kiss me' when they received it". The slogan was for a jewelry company based in Tianjin. What makes this company unique is that every single piece of their product was produced by 3D printing. Zhou Ziheng, who attended "See the Future" as a company representative, introduced me to some of the major advantages of 3D-Printing Technology, particularly in terms of jewelry production. It significantly increases production efficiency, even rising several times compared to the past; it reduces the costs of the manufacturing process without affecting quality; it requires much less professional skills from workers as well as from assisting equipment. In addition to these strengths, an impress allows greater possibility for creation—for example, carving Morse code implying special meanings on bracelets; rings customized with the people's sound waves, etc.

I interviewed a few students about their feelings after seeing the different displays in the technology zones. A student from the Guanghua School of Management said he was "genuinely inspired". "Many things that we previously couldn't imagine are coming true one by one," said the student with excitement, "now it's time for technological and scientific innovations to drive the domestic economy.



Students majoring in business and management, like me, should also definitely be aware of that."

One of the trending phrases in China nowadays is "Popular Entrepreneurship and Innovation". It was first brought up by Premier Li Keqiang during the Summer Davos Forum in 2014, of which scientific innovation plays a crucial and indispensable role. More and more students from PKU are becoming closely engaged with, or even leading this trend. "See the Future" science and technology experience zones was just one of the activities that have sprung up in re-

cent years, providing students with access to scientific creations. The PKU Science Park is another example. It is widely recognized as the most comprehensive integrated platform of science and technology in PKU. The science park was established in 1992 to meet with the Project 985 and Strategy of Invigorating China through the Development of Science and Education. With its affiliated Incubation Camps, the start-ups are well supported by sufficient Angel Investments, professional guidance of experts and a six-month-period of free offices inside Z-Park (ZhongGu-

anCun Science Park).

It is also worth mentioning a booming alternative finance that has recently emerged and been quickly applied to a wide range of areas including scientific innovation—crowdfunding. It is a way to raise monetary contributions through a large num-

pany that created the mind control racecars used a Kickstarter campaign, world's largest funding platform for creative projects based in New York. Students in PKU are more frequently adopting this way as well, and by now PKU has its own online crowdfunding website called PKUStarter in

in this case—high risk for startups, especially launched by "grassroots" entrepreneurs may give many ambitious young people a cold welcome; intense competition and limited resources results in countless cases of failing innovations. Despite this, science and technology is undoubtedly not something that is far beyond our reach. It is no longer a monopoly for high professionals and those with a powerful social background. Instead, it is a stage that encourages everyone with inspirations and enthusiasm to carry out further research and development, and furthermore, to achieve their dreams. The new era of innovation is coming and cannot be reversed, whether or not we're ready and willing to receive it. Students at PKU, one of China's most prestigious academic institutions that is plentiful with opportunities and resources, are among the pioneers of this trend. Many PKU'ers have already fully recognized it, and will embrace this revolutionary age with great passion, sparing no effort to make contributions to this fast changing world with innovation that inspires.

“Many things that we previously couldn't imagine are coming true one by one. Now it's time for technological and scientific innovations to drive the domestic economy.”

ber of people and is commonly performed via internet-based platforms. Crowdfunding is particularly suitable for the current situation of college entrepreneurs, as it depends largely on the public rather than specified agents, focuses more on diversity and creativity, and diversifies the risk in comparison to traditional Venture Capital. Many of the companies participating in "See the Future" zone had raised financial support through crowdfunding, for example, the com-

order to help the innovations of fellow students. "Scientific innovation today tends to be 'grass-root', which is related to more students here in this campus, as well as people around the world", Wang Yifan, a freshman from the School of Foreign Languages told me.

However, problems do exist. There is still a long way to go, and severe hardships are and certainly will not be unfamiliar in the future. The harsh reality poses great threats to everyone





Different Paths with Common Responsibilities

Beijing Forum 2015 Commencement Held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse

✎ Xin Yuan

On November 6, 2015, the opening ceremony of the twelfth Beijing Forum was held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II as well as the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations. The theme of this year's Beijing Forum is "The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All --- Different Paths with Common Responsibilities". The Beijing Forum seeks to promote academic development across the globe and contribute to the development of global civilization and cultural prosperity. Approximately 300 world-renowned scholars from different countries and regions attended the Forum. Professor Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of Peking University (PKU) Council, hosted the ceremony.

To begin the commencement

ceremony, Professor Zhu Shanlu said that harmony between civilizations and prosperity for all were our common goals. How to achieve a state of harmony when facing conflicts is a worldwide problem that the Beijing Forum works to resolve. As an influential forum, the Forum has received strong support and extensive attention from the Chinese government and international academic circles since its foundation in 2004. It has preserved its characteristics and also kept developing, and has made great contributions to academic development.

Later, Du Zhanyuan, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education of China, delivered a speech. He said that the world is experiencing profound changes. In this new era, the Beijing Forum has great significance in promoting mutual understanding and mutual respect of cultures, and it also helps to promote the

prosperity of all human civilizations. He stressed that people need to respect and tolerate other civilizations so that we can make progress together.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), conveyed his best wishes with a video message for the audience. He expressed his hope to witness progress in the aspects of promoting peace and advocating human rights in the coming United Nations Climate Conference in Paris. Iqbal Riza, Under-Secretary-General of the UN, read a letter from Joseph Reed, also an Under-Secretary-General of the UN. Reed emphasized the vital role the UN played in eliminating racial segregation, building an international system, and protecting human rights.

The speech of Chey Tae-won, Chairman of SK group, spoke next. He indicated that we need accu-

multate wisdom and work together to fight against social problems. Professor Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, delivered his speech afterwards. He indicated that in this

new era, we should view micro problems from a macro point of view. The Beijing Forum provides an important platform for academic discussions and it certainly can

be a good example for other developing countries. In the end, President Lin wished the Beijing Forum great success.

PKU Delegation Visits UK Educational Institutes

✎ Ge Nan

Professor Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the PKU Council, led a delegation to attend the UK Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms Annual Conference from October 19 to 22, 2015. The delegation also visited Imperial College, Cambridge University, Oxford University, the Rhodes Trust, and other well-known universities and institutions in the UK. The main goal of the visit is to

learn more about British universities' management system and experience as well as to strengthen collaboration between the two sides.

During the opening ceremony of the UK Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms Annual Conference, Professor Zhu briefly reported on the co-foundation of a Confucius Institute between PKU and the University College London Institute of Education. The delegation

then had a dialogue session with the President of Imperial College, Professor Alice Gast, and Deputy Provost, Professor Maggie Dallman. The two sides reached an agreement to foster friendly relations between the two universities.

During the delegation's visit at Cambridge University, the two sides had a thorough discussion about the Center for China at Jesus College. The Center, which is still under construc-



tion, is co-established by Cambridge University and PKU. Once completed, it will be a critical think tank for China-UK relations, interdisciplinary research, and host student and scholar exchanges. Afterwards, the group paid a visit to the Needham Research Institute of Oxford University. PKU foreign alumnus John Moffett presented their research achievements in China's ancient technology and culture. Professor Zhu interviewed Professor Khalfa, Deputy Dean of Trinity College. They agreed to strengthen cooperation in the cultivation of students.

In Oxford University, Professor Zhu and his colleagues are shown around the China Center by Professor Mitter, Chief of the Center. He intro-

duces their achievements in interdisciplinary studies. Professor Tufano, Dean of the Said Business School, also discussed the progress of the "Leading and Transforming Family Business—China" Program between Harvard, Oxford, and PKU.

During their stay at Oxford, the delegation paid a return visit to the Rhodes Trust in order to strengthen the cooperation between two sides in the hope that more outstanding PKU students can acquire Rhodes Scholarships. Additionally, Professor Zhu hopes that the Rhodes Scholarship would expand its influence in Asia and set up a representative office at PKU as a contact center for East Asia.

University College London is an-

other important partner of PKU. In the near future, a co-founded Confucius Institute will possibly reinforce this relationship. Professor Zhu also hopes that the two sides can explore more collaboration opportunities.

The delegation also took part in the orientation of the PKU alumni association in the UK. As the representative of their alma mater, Professor Zhu expressed his greetings to the alumni, and he talked about PKU's recent development as well as its upcoming 120th anniversary. He hopes that new members of the alumni association will study hard and continue to represent the spirit of PKU. He also encouraged other alumni to make outstanding contribution in their fields.

Director from the China center for disease control, gave a talk on the theme "General Situation of Infectious Diseases in China".

The three themes on the first day included disease control, health policy, and management, and the environment and health. On the second day, the forum started with the topic of "Education Teaching and Personnel Training" and "Leadership and

Management".

The forum provided a platform for communication and exchange of ideas. The China-US Public Health Forum enabled people to have a better understanding of the trends and developments of public health as well as learn more about important scientific research, health education, and personnel and leadership training. China is facing the transforma-

tion of its society, population, and diseases. The reform of the healthcare system is deepening, so there is great potential for international cooperation. The forum raised the level of international cooperation in public health, and it also deepened mutual understanding between domestic institutions, which is significant to promoting public health development in China.

5th China-US Public Health Forum Held at Peking University

Lu Yifan

From October 23 to 24, 2015, the Fifth China-US Public Health Forum was jointly held by the schools of public health of Peking University, Fudan University, and Johns Hopkins University. More than 100 scholars from different universities attended the forum.

This forum was held in the form of speeches and discussions. Professor J. Groopman from Johns Hopkins University gave a talk on the theme "Fighting Pollution: International Experience and Its Impact on China". Professor Yang Weizhong, Associate



Inaugural World Congress on Marxism Held at Peking University

Chen Qiqi

The first-ever World Congress on Marxism was held at Peking University on October 10, 2015. It is a platform that more than 400 scholars of Marxism and specialists of China studies from over 20 countries and

regions shared their thoughts and insights on "Marxism and the Development of the Human Race".

First of its Kind

World-renowned scholars and

specialists, including Samir Amin, the Egyptian Marxian economist, and Roderick MacFarquhar, the Harvard University professor and China specialist were invited to discuss the development and exchange of Marxism around the world and its important

role in social progress. In terms of scale and attendance, it is the best international academic congress on Marxism studies ever held in China. With eight sub-forums and three special sessions, the assembly aimed at facing the complicated problems of today's society, studying and sharing China's experience and propelling the advancement of world civilization to build a community of common destiny for all mankind.

China: A Significant Contribution

Samir Amin, endorsing the contribution that Chinese Marxism had made to human civilization, said in his speech, "In the studies of and reflection on Marxism, we have to look to Chinese Marxism, which is the

realistic reflection of the vitality and popularity of Marxism." Roderick MacFarquhar believed that the notion of the Chinese Dream put forward by President Xi could be regarded as the innovative development of Marxism, which would have a positive effect on human development. Du Yubo, Vice Minister of Education, also said at the opening ceremony that the conference will on one hand showcase China's extensive research on Marxism and on the other hand help Chinese scholars expand their research horizon.

On the afternoon of October 10 and the morning of October 11, eight sub-forums were hosted by both Chinese and foreign scholars, covering wide-ranging topics such as "The Origin and Development of Marxism", "Marxism and Scientific Culture",

"Marxism and Globalization", as well as other topics. Along with the sub-forums, three special sessions were held, which noted worldwide scholars gave keynote speeches, had active dialogues, and interacted with the attendees.

The first World Congress on Marxism ended on the afternoon of October 11. During the closing ceremony, a speech entitled "Consensus by Scholars of World Congress on Marxism" was delivered, which pointed out that Marxism, renewed with time, could still be the guiding light for today's human society to help people out of the plight.

Note: *The original article was written and edited by the PKU News Center journalists Zhang Xinyu and Xiao Yunyun. This article has been adapted by Chen Qiqi.*

Andreasen explained that there are distinguishing features in the drawings. When they went deeper inside the Center, there was totally different and more Western-like interior design, which was simple and elegant. Teachers and students were amazed by the perfect harmony between the Chinese and Western styles.

Following Andreasen to the lower levels of the center, they saw the open space and bright lighting which made them feel as if in another world. He showed them every room including the meeting rooms, lecture halls,

offices, and so on. Among them, the most interesting room was a classroom designed for distance learning. In this room, students could see the classrooms at Stanford in California on the screen so that teachers and students from both PKU and Stanford are able to attend the same class and join in the same discussion despite the long distance in between. All of the guests were impressed by advanced technology and innovations in modern education.

Andreasen explained the reason why they built the center and the reg-

ular operation mechanism, and then he shared some novel ideas in Chinese and Western academic exchanges. Also, Andreasen expressed that the Stanford Center in PKU was not just a place for meetings but also a place for scientific research, work, and various other extracurricular activities.

After the brief tour, students and teachers all came back to the guestroom and Andreasen earnestly answered their questions a Q&A session. At last, the fourth Foreign Affairs Salon came to an end and Andreasen welcome the guests to visit again.

Vladimir I. Yakunin The Dialogue of Civilizations

✎ Wang Shan

On November 5, 2015, Vladimir I. Yakunin, founder of the World Public Forum "Dialogue of Civilizations" and head of the State Politics Department at the Faculty of Political Science at the Lomonosov Moscow State University (PKU) with the theme of "The theory of the dialogue of civilizations for developing long-term relations between China and Russia". Qi Mingqiu, executive chairman of China Song Ching Ling Foundation, and participants including professors and student representatives from PKU were also in attendance.

The subject of the lecture is the theory and practice of interaction

of civilizations, which is based on the research work and activities performed by the World Public Forum "Dialogue of Civilizations", which is

a non-governmental and non-profit international public organization.

During the lecture, Mr. Yakunin stated that from the very beginning,



4th Foreign Affairs Salon Step into the Stanford Center at PKU

✎ Mina Sohn

On June 11, 2015, the Office of International Relations of PKU hosted the fourth Foreign Affairs Salon. This time, Andrew Andreasen, Executive

Director of the Stanford Center at PKU was invited to show teachers and students from PKU around the Center.

Stepping into the gate of the cen-

ter, the structures and architecture were displayed strong Chinese characteristics; the Center was in the shape of a Siheyuan and the arches were decorated with colorful drawings, and

the World Public Forum has stood for supporting and protecting the modern pluralistic view of the world, recognized and insisted on the responsible approaches to the co-existence of people, consistently developed and updated the methodology and practice of inter-civilizational dialogue.

"It is this attitude that let's us take a step closer to understanding the inclusive world view with no ideological bias, which, in our opinion, is absolutely necessary for the further development of mankind," said Mr. Yakunin.

As part of the lecture, Mr. Yakunin talked about what the dialogue of civilizations is, how it is developing in the modern world, and what World Public Forum experiences we can use to develop a long-term friendship and partnership between Russia and China.

He also commented that the current dilemma of global development polarization between the rich and the poor reflected the manipulative policies of global super powers that aim at dominating the world. He pointed out that old pattern of economic development should be replaced with

a new one based on sacrifice and mutual respect and that a new model of "development, cooperation, and peace" should be established. Mr. Yakunin then explained that the international community should make joint efforts on the basis of respect and dialogue of civilizations to avoid conflicts. "The world is entering an era of real interaction of civilizations," said Mr. Yakunin.

The lecture ended with two quotes from speeches delivered at the 70th General Session of the United Nations in September of this year by the leaders of China and Russia.

The first quote is from the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping: "We should forge a global partnership at both international and regional levels, and embrace a new approach to state-to-state relations, one that features dialogue rather than confrontation, and seeks partnership rather than alliance."

The second quotation is by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin: "Ensuring peace and regional stability remains the key objective of the international community, with the UN at its helm. We

believe this means creating a space of equal and indivisible security which is not for select few, but for everyone. Yes, it is a challenging, difficult, and time-consuming task, but there is simply no other alternative."

Mr. Yakunin stated that the work of such organizations like the World Public Forum and the principles observed in the dialogues of civilizations fully show the spirit of promoting the development of a more equal, peaceful, and humane international order.

So if we think in this perspective, China, Russia, and all willing parties, like South Korea, Japan, and the US, can get involved. The two projects will link economies and people of different parts of continents and different parts of the world. In today's divided world, some people may not be happy to see the project. But if we're thinking about the future of sustainable development of civilizations, that kind of project could inject new energy to the development of global economy. So I'm positive that those projects will be promising and I'm positive in cooperation among China, Russia, European countries, Japan, South Korea, and all the countries of Asia.



China-US-South Korea Trilateral Dialogue The 3rd Round Held at Peking University

by Li Ruoxue

From the 9th to the 10th of October, experts from China, America, and Korea gave their views on the post-WWII international order at the third round of China-US-South Korea Trilateral Dialogue, a forum organized by and held at Peking University (PKU). The forum included a one-and-a-half-day closed-door meeting and a public discussion.

The China-US-South Korea Trilateral Dialogue is a high-end academic forum supported by the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS) and organized by the School of International Studies of PKU, KFAS, the John. L Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution. The former two rounds were held in Seoul, South Korea in April 2014 and at the Brookings Institution in the US in December 2014, which had significant impact on the academic field.

Lasting for one morning and a

whole day, the closed-door meeting was hosted by Jia Qingguo, Dean of the School of International Studies of PKU; Yeom Jae-ho, President and Professor of Korea University; Jonathan Pollack and Thomas Wright, senior fellows from the John. L Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution. The experts from the three countries discussed how China, the US, and South Korea have relied on the existing world order for realizing their security and economic interests; the role of domestic politics in shaping these countries' attitudes toward world order; and the evolution of the trilateral relationship in the future.

In the afternoon of October 9, a public discussion was held at the School of International Studies of PKU. Wei Jianguo, Former Vice Minister of Commerce of China, stated in his speech that China is a builder, contributor to, and beneficiary of the rules and order in the international

society, which was enunciated by President Xi at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly. Six scholars and experts shared their views with the audience, including Wang Jisi, President of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies of PKU; Jia Qingguo, Dean of the School of International Studies of PKU; Kenneth Lieberthal, a senior fellow from the John. L Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution; Jonathan Pollack, also a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution; Young-sun Ha, professor emeritus of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Seoul National University; Jung-hoon Lee, South Korean government's Ambassador for Human Rights. The audience of about 350 people included ambassadors from other countries, the press corps, people from different fields, and the general public.





A Conversation with the Chairman of Morgan Stanley

by Zheng Zihui

Ever wondered how the first bank occurred? James Gorman, Chairman and CEO of Morgan Stanley, started with an interesting anecdote on how banks came into being and how they were named.

"Venice", Gorman said, "is generally where people agreed that the first bank occurred. Merchants on one side of Venice supplied, with several activities like sales as they

foraged. And the money lenders lived on the other side of Venice. So the money lenders and borrowers met across the waters, on the top of the canal, where they sat on a bench and negotiated the terms for borrowing." The first form of a bank functioned as a channel of bringing borrowers and lenders of capital together. "Actually," Gorman added, "the word 'Bank' originated from 'Banco' ('bench' in Italian)."

In plain terms, banks provide fuel for the economy, allowing people to borrow and leverage capital in order to grow their businesses, without which markets would be very inefficient. While this is generally true for banks, what differs investment banks like Morgan Stanley from commercial banks? "Commercial banks lend money directly using deposits, whereas investment banks finance through capital mar-

kets." Gorman explained. At their core, investment and commercial banks form the same function, only one is market-driven and one is balance-sheet driven.

Morgan Stanley in a New Regulated Market

With the aftermath of 2008 financial crisis still looms in several markets in the form of slow growth and disinflation, conservative regulators have imposed tight regulations on financial industries. Gorman made an interesting analogy here: Regulators work like doctors. Firstly, regulators provide the do's and don'ts for maintaining the health of banks—which means to preserve enough capital, ensure liquidity, and to keep leverage under control. Second, regulations serve as a sort of annual checkup, in the sense that regulators monitor the financial health attributes of banks to see if they are actually working at times of stress. Lastly, 'Recovery and Resolution' plans, which have been administered to avoid another Lehman-type collapse, are meant to ensure that in the unfortunate event that one is dying, one dies peacefully. Never before the crisis had we had such a pre-crisis constructed framework.

Too-Big-to-Bail or Just too Big?

Prior to the 2008 financial crisis, Morgan Stanley had a balance sheet of 30 billion dollars, with a leverage of 40 times, but with the new regula-

tions, Morgan has chosen to downsize its leverage to around 11-12.

"When your balance sheet is as big as Morgan Stanley's—we had an 800 billion balance sheet, some even significantly higher—you're causing great waves of problems to the economy if something goes wrong." Gorman defined this as being something that was "systematically important".

Even with stricter regulations,

reacting? Gorman was not surprised by the heavy supervision, feeling that the unprecedented magnitude and long-lasting effects of the 2008 financial crisis should be accepted. In Gorman's words: "[There were] A lot of responsible parties in the crisis, banks were just the easiest to find."

Rule Number 1 for Being a Leader: Do not get Paralyzed by Doubters.

Gorman assumed his position

“Even with stricter regulations, Gorman is unsure whether the ‘too-big-to-fail’ problem has been completely solved, though the regulations have caused drastic changes in financial institutions.”

Gorman is unsure whether the "Too-big-to-fail" problem has been completely solved, though the regulations have caused drastic changes in financial institutions. The changes, he suggests, are more in natures of complexity of financial institutions, rather than in their size, stating that "Institutions should demonstrate that they can handle extra capital level or else they should be smaller."

Gorman admits that though new regulations have brought along constraints, but Morgan Stanley recognizes the necessity for a set of rules and worked within the regulations by making the necessary adjustments, even if it means making concessions and sacrifices. Were the regulations passed overly-restrictive? Had the regulators been over-

at a critical time not only for Morgan Stanley, but also for the entire market as a whole. In taking on aggressive and reformative changes for Morgan Stanley after the crisis, what were Gorman's core strengths? Gorman took on aggressive and reformative changes for Morgan Stanley after the crisis. This led to a question of what were his core strengths in making those decisions and whether there were those who challenged his decisions.

"Being in a leadership role means that you have to want to make decisions." By that meaning, when making a decision, one must bear the consequences that come with it. No matter who you are, as soon as you make a decision, there will be oppositions and people who just don't like it. There are times when they

turn out right, and you're wrong in the end. This paralyzes a lot of people. "I like being the decision maker," Gorman says with a smile, "and I don't mean it in an arrogant way. I get input from a lot of people but I'm very comfortable making decisions and living with the consequences." Gorman understands that even the most intellectual and well-informed make wrong decisions, "but if you're always waiting for perfection, you never decide." This is crucial because organizations are led by decision-making, "You have to be right most of the time, or

you're not the right leader."

Though Morgan Stanley received help from the government during its recovery stage, it was not an easy job. The help was contingent on several things happening, one was convincing shareholders to buy into this—a sector that has become nearly un-investable. Gorman recalls talking to shareholders, explaining and reassuring them that a crisis like this would not happen again to Morgan Stanley. Gorman believes that the right values and culture starts at the firm level, "You cannot regulate ethics. It is embod-

ied in your culture," and Gorman's job was to reaffirm those values. "You need a healthy ego to pursue your work, and regulations check that you've made the necessary precautions and you're not being over excessive." The impression of consistency and credibility that people had for Morgan Stanley, together with cooperation with the key regulators, has brought Morgan Stanley to such a position today since the 2008 crisis.

"I Love Making Decisions"

In response to a few career path related questions, Gorman drew

upon some interesting personal stories. Gorman grew up in Australia and became a lawyer. Making his family one that had 7 lawyers, Gorman felt that he had to get out of there. "I wanted to be in business because it was all about decision making." Gorman felt that lawyers worked after consensus were made, which could never fulfil his appetite for making decisions himself. With that, he left law and went to work for McKinsey for 12 years. Though being closer to actions, Gorman still felt that he wanted to be at the core of the decision making, which led him to pursue a business degree at the Columbia Business School in 1985. "You can't plan this too much. Life is a journey, you can't be too prescriptive and should instead, pursue things you love. Interests grow into passions. Be open."

When asked if he had a mentor in life, Gorman said he cannot think of a single person as his mentor. Instead, he finds elements of people that he admires, and rather than copying them, he talks and learns from them.

"Always have a targeted question. 'Gee, I noticed that you are good at such and such. I'd love to have coffee with you sometime and talk about it. Rather than just saying, 'Hey, you're talented. Give me some of your stuff.'" When Gorman first arrived at Merrill Lynch's marketing department in 1999, he came across the "Capone of American Express", the one who led the best campaign in history. Gorman remembers he walked up to him and asked 'Can I talk with you? I'd love to hear about

the campaign, what did you think about...? I had specific questions."

But speaking of a single person who is as much as a role model as a mentor was his father. Gorman's father grew up in Australia, where he was home-schooled. Though he was sent back to his property without a choice because of a drought during his college years. He was the valedictorian of his class. Gorman's father became an engineer and started his own business with 7 kids at home. His view on life was that even little victories should be celebrated, rather than obsessing over big magical moments or turning points in life.

Many in the audience expressed interest in working at investment banks like Morgan Stanley, but were concerned that not coming from a financial background would be detrimental for them to pursue careers in this field. Gorman assured that their employers were talented people that came from a wide range of backgrounds and that there are departments that require in-depth knowledge, such as in the liquidity and risk management group.

"There are jobs that deal more with relationships, like sales, and there are the more technical ones. But still, you have to be numeric and analytical, of course. That's the threshold." No matter your department, communication is at the core, and being able to communicate ideas clearly and powerfully is not unique to financial people. Simplifying complexity and telling a story is the key to communication. When Gorman tells people about Morgan



Stanley, he does not talk about how big a bank doing big transactions of billions and trillions. Instead, he tells a story about an aircraft carrier with departments like wealth and asset management that brings stability in volatile times and investment divisions that work as powerful engines that gives speed in good times. "So it's about stability and speed," Gorman concluded. Simplicity creates stability, and "people cannot follow complexity".

The hour passed quickly and Gorman concluded the panel with some opinions on the Chinese economy. "There are people saying that China is losing steam and its growth is slumping. But it is still 2.5-3 times the growth speed of the U.S., and it should be taken seriously." Its growth, pollution, food quality, the one-child policy, and workforce problems should also be evaluated. "I'm not bullish on China, but I'm definitely positive." He stated that big operations are happening in the Asia Pacific region, and that he sees no diminishing in investing in these regions.





Yves Charles Zarka Ideals and Crises in the European Union

✎ Xu Rui

At the invitation of Peking University (PKU), Yves Charles Zarka, the renowned French political philosopher and professor of philosophy at the Paris Descartes University, visited PKU from November 2 to December 9. On November 12, Professor Zarka delivered a lecture entitled "Ideals and Crises in the European Union". The lecture was held by Peking University, co-hosted by the Peking University Office of International Relations, the Department of Philosophy and Political Philosophy and Ethics Research Center, and sponsored by the Guanghua Educational Foundation.

The lecture began with remarks from Professor Li Meng and Professor

Zan Tao, the moderators. Professor Li gave an introduction on the academic contributions of Professor Zarka. Professor Zarka rose to fame in the 1980s for his studies on early modern political thoughts, and he has been contemplating the main issues of modern Europe in the fields of political and philosophical studies since 2000. One of his most significant contributions is the redefinition of cosmopolitanism and politics.

In his speech, Professor Zarka pointed out that the three major crises that the European Union has witnessed in recent years: First, the financial and economic crisis of 2008; second, the crisis caused by the new form of terrorism; and third, the migration crisis. While they did share

some external influences, what Professor Zarka focused on the internal struggles the EU faces while trying to solve these issues. These issues can be categorized into political and cultural dimensions. He illustrated, in his analysis of the new form of terrorism threatening Europe, that Europe had somehow "internalized" these terrorist attacks. In this sense, the crisis brought by the attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris earlier this year is graver than the "9-11" event in New York in 2001. It revealed not only the collision of two opposing civilizations fighting for different ideals, values, and religion, but a far more internalized collision, which is equally overwhelming both for Western democratic countries and Muslim countries. This recent

trend has caused great concern for the situation in France. From the perspective of the EU, he believes that the decline of the modern European values as well as the loss of political will are the causes and effects of the EU crises. As for the migration crisis, he opines there to be an inner conflict between border management, sovereignty, and EU expansion.

He then reflected on the constitutional principles of the EU. It represented a new political phenomenon as a political coalition, not the coalition of nation states. After two world wars, Europe saw the need to unite its economies, finances, and politics in order to have greater influence on the world stage. Accordingly, that required a new political paradigm, a political entity with the will and ability to act, one that protects its citizens and their wealth without depriving its members of their sovereignty. Hence a political Europe is far from a federal country, let alone a single nation. In the history of political philosophy, Kant has followed the steps of Montesquieu to reveal the danger of sliding into despotic rule, which is especially alarming to Europe, where countries have their long-developed languages, traditions, and rights. Therefore, one question had to be solved: How to build a political coalition whose functional abilities and legislations exceeded individual members?

According to Professor Zarka, that proved to be a fundamental difficulty. He stressed that the EU may fall into confrontation between the diverse interests of its members if a political authority would not be established by constitution. Currently, the EU can hardly make any decisions that allows the common European interests to prevail. Instead, the economically developed countries often have more

say. Thus, the source of many difficulties is the lack of a rational political government. What leads European countries to division and confrontation is a kind of divergence rather than convergence.

His discussion then moved on to the cultural dimension. Since the beginning of the Enlightenment of 18th century, Europe was known for a many cultural ideals like reason, universalism, freedom, democracy, and human rights. However, there has been loud criticism on these ideals since the second half of the last century. The rise of the Nazis and colonialism are two clear examples of these criticisms. The once glorious universal values that Europeans committed to cultivate have been tainted by the dark sides of colonial history, dimmed by growing suspicion on its universal applicability, and finally put to rest by relativism.

Professor Zan Tao commented on Professor Zarka's lecture. On the migration crisis, he mentioned the French intervention as a EU member, the historical background on this issue, and the questions concerning the border. He agrees on the threats of relativism, which might be used by extreme fundamentalists to defend their acts. It may also shed some light on the crises of modernity.

In summary, Professor Zarka pointed out that the terrorism the EU faces has shifted from the "outside" to the "inside", and a series of terrorist attacks against Paris may be its consequence. Today, more than three thousand European Jihadists have gone to Syria and Iraq to serve the so-called Islamic State, which reminds us, rather disturbingly, that the situation of inner terrorism crisis has intensified.



Just two days after the lecture, the terrorist attack on Paris shocked the world with its heavy casualties. There has been much questioning about the nature and the reasons of this attack. The speech by Professor Zarka has been widely referred to by the media, and he also wrote an article for *Le Figaro* in which he looked analyzed the crisis.

Yves Charles Zarka

Yves Charles Zarka, born on the 14th of March in 1950 in Tunis (Tunisia), is a philosopher and professor at the Paris Descartes University and holder of the chair of political philosophy. He has long been the research director at French National Centre for Scientific Research, where he headed the Center of History of Modern Philosophy and the Thomas Hobbes Center. He is founder and director of the magazine *Cités*. He currently heads the center PHILÉPOL (philosophy, epistemology, politics, and semiology) at the Paris Descartes University in which research is organized around the concept of the "emerging world". His research focuses on democracy, new environmental challenges, the new configuration of global power, cosmopolitanism, and tolerance, in addition to others.



PKU Makes Breakthrough in Earliest Seed Plants Research

✎ Liu Xiaohuan

Professor Wang Deming's group from the School of Earth and Space Sciences, Peking University recently published two research papers concerning the ovule and pollen organs of Devonian spermatophytes; significantly extending the palaeogeographic range of the earliest seed plants, and providing further insight into the diversification of the earliest spermatophyte pollen organs. The first research paper was published in *The Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* on October 14, 2015, and was entitled "Latisemenia

longshania, gen. et sp. nov., a new Late Devonian seed plant from China". The second research paper was published in *Nature Scientific Reports* on May 29, 2015, and was entitled "A Late Devonian fertile organ with seed plant affinities from China".

The first major evolutionary radiation of seed plants occurred in the Famennian of the Late Devonian. Through this long geological period, spermatophytes have become predominant species among terrestrial vegetation, making the origin, systematics and evolution of these seed plants a topic of widespread academ-

ic interest.

During the last 10 years, Professor Wang Deming's group has been devoted to carrying out field expeditions – picking up fossils and doing in-house research in attempt to find traces of the earliest seed plants. Recently, under the collaboration with foreign experts, the group found a new species: *Latisemenia longshania*, from the Famennian of South China. This new taxon bears cupulate ovules that are terminal as well as opposite on the fertile axis. Each ovule has four broad integumentary lobes, which are extensively fused both to each

other and the nucellus. The cupule is uniovulate, whereas the five flattened cupule segments of each terminal ovule are elongate cuneate, and shorter than the ovule.

This research, in which the earliest seed plants with ovules borne on the side of the fertile axis have been discovered, has also been significant in revealing South China's importance to the world of paleontology.

Another discovery of professor Wang's group concerns the early pollen organs of seed plants; offering a deeper insight into their structure and evolution by introducing a new taxon of pollen organ from the Late Devonian: *Placotheca minuta*. Contrary to the earlier understanding, that the earliest known pollen organs of seed plants may be very similar morphologically to the clusters of independent sporangia (in regards to

their shape, size, dehiscence and wall) of the Middle Devonian (Givetian) - Late Devonian (Frasnian) ancestral progymnosperms, *Placotheca* has been shown to be synangiate; possessing more complicated structures and indicating earlier diversification of pollen organs than previously expected. This discovery suggests that pollen organs evolved rapidly after the emergence of seed plants, while their prepollen remained primitively spore-like.

This research also challenges the misconceptions of the difficulties in estimating the diversification rate of the earliest pollen, and helps promote the study of early seed plants.

Xue Jinzhuang, Liu Le and Huang Pu were members of the group. Dr J. Basinger, P. Gerrienne, B. Meyer-Berthaud, S.G. Hao, and J. Wang provided valuable suggestions for the two

discoveries. The work is supported by the National Basic Research Program of China (2012CB821900) of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, as well as the National Natural Science Foundation of China (41172007).



A Breakthrough Discovery on Quantum Griffiths Singularity on Two-Dimensional System

✎ Lin Zixi

Professor Wang Jian from the International Center for Quantum Materials (ICQM), School of Physics, along with Professor Xie Xincheng and Professor Lin Xi from ICQM, observed the superconductor-metal transitions in two-dimensional (2D) systems in Ga films with the thickness of three monolayers. The result of the research was published in *Science*

under the title of "Quantum Griffiths singularity of superconductor-metal transition in Ga thin films" on October 15, 2015.

Quenched disorder can have profound effects on phase transitions. One of the most striking feature is the Griffiths singularity, which appears in some systems as a consequence of the formation of rare ordered regions. In those systems, the critical point in the

presence of disorder was predicted to show exponential instead of power-law correlations and a divergent dynamical critical exponent $z \rightarrow \infty$. However, the most prominent feature of the Griffiths singularity, the divergence of the dynamical critical exponent, has been challenging to observe experimentally in two-dimensional (2D) systems.

The researchers demonstrated that



approaches zero. However, they discovered that unlike normal cases, the effective “critical” exponent z grows rapidly with decreasing temperature in the ultralow-temperature regime and approaches infinity with the field approaching BC^* and the temperature tending to zero.

At the end of this article, the author summarized their findings by a B-T phase diagram. It shows that when approaching the infinite-randomness QCP at BC^* , the quenched disorder leads to two correlated phenomena:

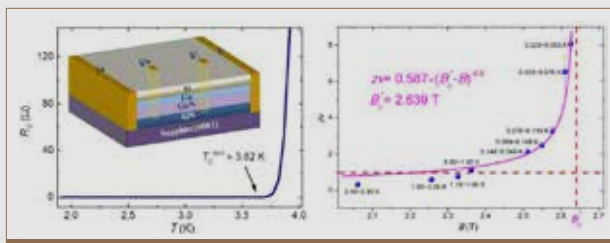
(i) In the zero-temperature limit, the vortex lattice deforms into a vortex glass-like phase on a length scale $L > LP$;

(ii) because of the transformation into the vortex glass-like phase, rare regions of inhomogeneous superconducting islands gradually emerge in the $B > B_2$ regime and manifest activated scaling behavior, namely, the quantum Griffiths singularity. One question remains as to why this activated scaling feature has not yet been observed in SMT in previous studies. They attribute this absence to the instability of the vortex glass-like phase under thermal fluctuation. The quenched disorder will play a dominant role for length scales $L > LP$. Thus, in the high-temperature regime, thermal fluctuations smear the inhomogeneity caused by quenched disorder, and rare regions hardly exist. Near zero temperature, the impact of quenched disorder overtakes thermal fluctuation,

which results in the emergence of rare regions around the infinite-randomness QCP. On the basis of these considerations, they speculate that the activated scaling feature can only be observed under extremely low temperature, which is the case in study.

“More than 40 years ago, Robert B. Griffiths predicted that phase transitions can be dramatically changed by disorder effect and in particular the dynamical critical exponent can diverge, which is called ‘Griffiths Singularity’. However, the major signature of the theory, the divergence of dynamical critical exponent, is very difficult to detect in experiments” said Professor Wang. “Recently, we observed for the first time the quantum Griffiths singularity in two dimensional (2D) superconducting system, which offers a new perspective on the previous studies of the superconductor-insulator and superconductor-metal quantum phase transitions.”

Professor Xie Xincheng advised them to observe the quantum phase transition in extremely low temperature, and carried out the theory together with Liu Haiwen and Wang Lei. Professor Wang Jian, Professor Lin Xi from Peking University and Professor Ma Xucun from Tsinghua University are the co-corresponding authors of this article. Xing Ying, Fu Hailong, Research Associate Liu Haiwen from Peking University and Zhang Huimin from Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences are the co-first authors of the article.



A More Accurate Non-Invasive Method of Diagnosing Primary Stage of Liver Cancer Found

✦ Han Jingtao

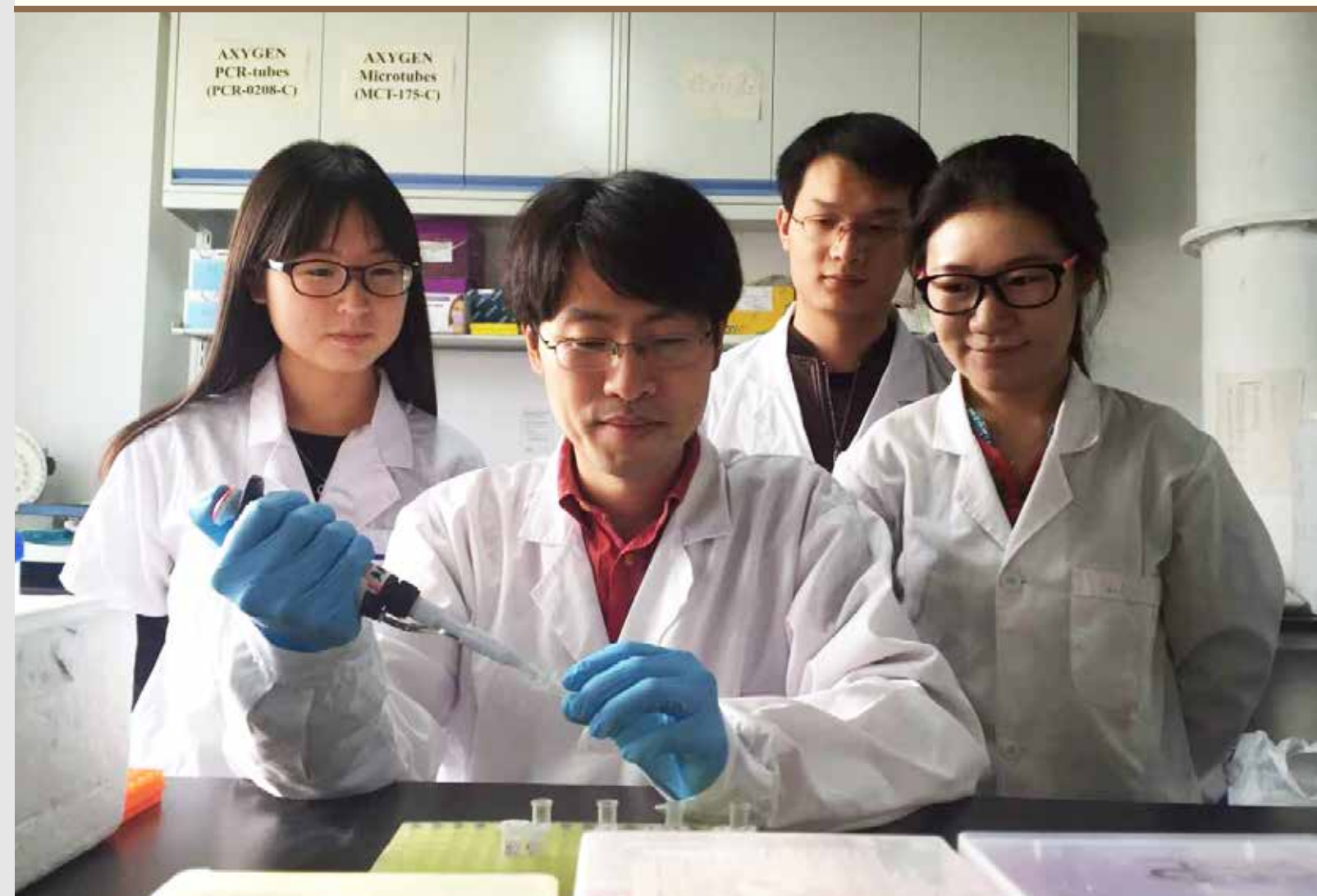
Liu Wen, Jingyi Li, and Xiaomeng Liu from Biodynamic Optical Imaging Center (BIO-PIC), College of Life Sciences, Peking University, along with Huahu Guo from the Department of Surgery at Beijing Shijitan Hospital and Capital Medical University recently published an online paper on Cell Research, titled “Genome-scale detection of hypermethylated CpG islands in circulating cell-free DNA of hepatocellular carcinoma patients”,

on October 30, 2015. The research provides a breakthrough method to diagnose the most common type of liver cancer, Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) at its primary stage. In most cases, HCC is caused by either a viral hepatitis infection (hepatitis B or C) or cirrhosis (alcoholism being the most common cause of liver cirrhosis).

HCC is one of the most common cancers worldwide. More males are affected than females, and the com-

mon age of infection is between 30 to 50 years old. About half of the 662,000 worldwide deaths caused by HCC occur in China each year. HCC is one of the deadliest cancers in China, where chronic hepatitis B is found in 90% of cases.

Through the analysis of tissue and plasma samples from hepatocellular carcinoma patients and control subjects, the team identified dozens of high-performance markers in blood for detecting small HCC (≤ 3 cm).



Two related standards have been established, the combination of which achieves a sensitivity of 94% with a specificity of 89% for the plasma samples from HCC patients and control subjects, including cirrhosis

crucial for cancer-associated ccfDNA from patient plasma or other bodily fluids, where the cancer-associated ccfDNA is present in extremely low amounts and constitutes a minor proportion of the total ccfDNA. In

tissues.

To identify markers for detecting early stage HCC, the team focused on plasma samples of nine patients with small HCC tumors (≤ 3 cm), which resulted in 382 differentially methylated loci. One locus, the TMC8, showed higher methylation levels in the cancer-adjacent tissues when compared to both the cancer and the normal liver tissues, suggesting that its methylation levels elevated especially during the cirrhosis stage. With all the information gathered, the team found the most tumor-specific markers—RGS10, ST8SIA6, VIM and RUNX2.

In the final part of the study, the team established 2 diagnostic classifiers

to distinguish HCC patients from cancer-free individuals. For the classifier I, the team focused on four type I markers (RGS10, ST8SIA6, RUNX2 and VIM), the elevation of which gave the most specific indication for the presence of cancer. Classifier II was built on 15 type II markers, the elevation of which should indicate the excessive death of liver cells.

The four authors contributed equally to the research, along with contributors, Zheng Shengmin, Zhang Dafang, Zhu Weihua, Qu Jianhui, Guo Limin, Du Dexiao, Jin Xiao, Zhang Yuhao, Gao Yun, Shen Jie, Ge Hao, Tang Fuchou, Huang Yanyi, and Peng Jirun. The work has been supported by the Peking University High-throughput Sequencing Center and the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

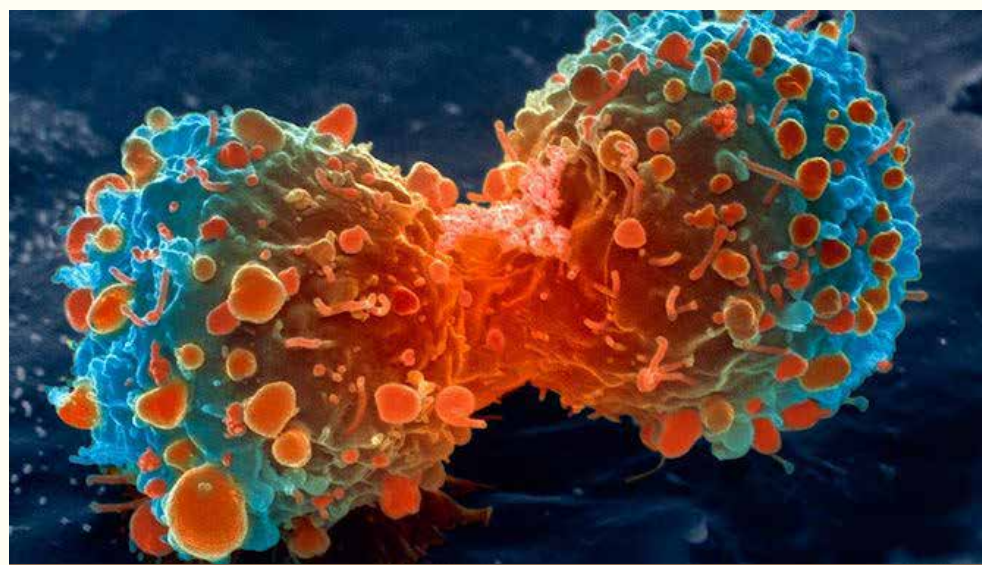
this experiment, a large number of markers known to be frequently hypermethylated in human cancers, were detected with high sensitivity. The team found a unique molecular identifier that could be used to distinguish 243 different molecules, which is sufficient to quantify the ccfDNA present at a low-copy number, particularly at the early cancer stage.

The next part of the research was to assess the ability of the MCTA-Seq technique to distinguish cancerous from noncancerous tissues, and to detect cancer-specific hypermethylated CGIs. The team performed the technique in HCCs and matched adjacent noncancerous liver samples with normal liver samples. The results reveals that the MCTA-Seq technique can be used to profile aberrant CGI hypermethylation in HCC

patients and normal individuals. It is also worth mentioning that all HCC patients that are alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) negative in the research were successfully identified (AFP, one of the most commonly used biomarkers to diagnose the disease, however, lacks sufficient sensitivity and specificity for cancer detection).

The detection method, MCTA-Seq, is based on the evidence of a large number of CpG tandems that are highly enriched in the CGIs of human genomes. The differentially methylated CGIs were clearly revealed when the results of two cancer cell lines (HepG2 and HeLa cells) were compared with those of human white blood cells.

Having developed the new detection method, the team followed by studying the analytical sensitivity of the MCTA-Seq technique that is



Lancet Infectious Diseases Published Professor Liu Min's Research Article on the Analysis of Seroepidemiology of Hepatitis B Infection in Rural Males

► Zhao Zhujun

Over the past two decades, the prevalence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) Infection in China has transitioned from highly endemic ($>8\%$) to intermediate endemic (6%) among the older rural male population. Great improvements have been seen following the implementation of the hepatitis B vaccination. However, the amount of people infected with this disease still remains relatively large. Liu Min, Professor at Peking University and his team, along with the cooperation of the Department of Maternal and Child Health, National Health and Family Planning Commission of the PRC, published a research article with the topic of "Seroepidemiology of hepatitis B virus infection in 2 million men aged 21-49 years in rural China: a population-based, cross-sectional study". This research article focused on the conduct of a large population-based study to assess the seroepidemiology of HBV infection among Chinese rural men aged 21-49

years to provide a latest baseline data for the development of a better prevention, after the implementation of the Hep. B vaccine, and control program for HBV in rural China.

The method used in the survey involved data collection from a nation-wide free physical check-up service for reproductive new couples, who are considering to have babies in the near future. The sample of the survey consists of Chinese rural men aged 21-49, with a total sampling size of 2,030,083 males from 31 provinces in China, from the years 2010-2012. Among the 200 million participants, 1,962,103 provided serum sample, which contained the serologic marker essential for hepatitis B analysis.

The result of the survey showed that with the given sampling size, six percent were

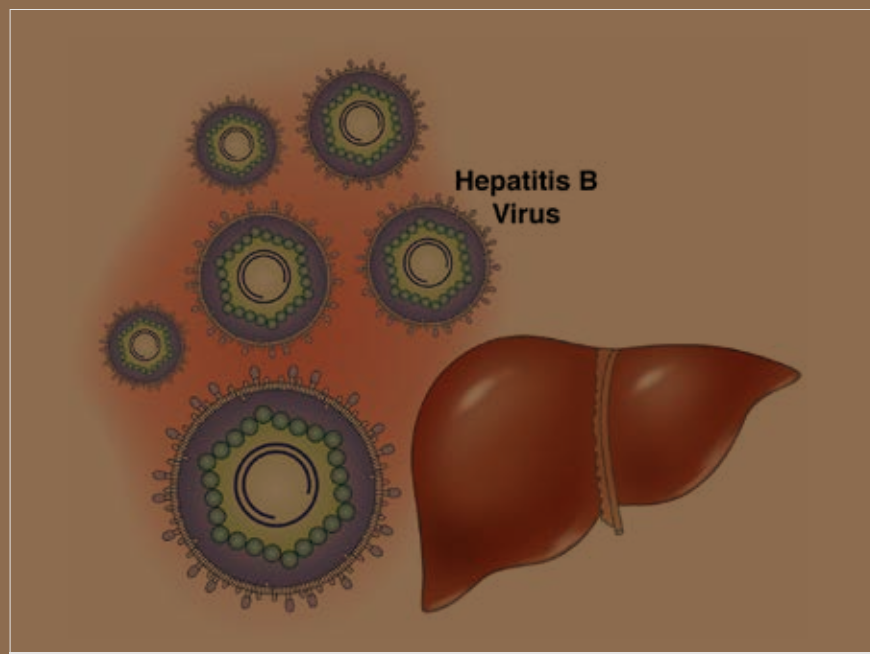


tested HBsAg positive, meaning they were infected with the disease. Seven (7) percent tested positive for anti-HBc. Thirty (30) percent were positive for anti-HBs, and 27% tested positive for isolated anti-HBs, which indicated their previous immunity generated from the Hep. B vaccination. Another 63% of the sampling population showed to be negative to all HBV markers, indicating that they have never receive any vaccination of the sort nor have they ever been exposed to the virus before, rendering them the group that is susceptible for potential future Hepatitis infection.

From this population-based, cross-sectional study, one can visualize the progress made in hepatitis B infection reduction from two decades before to nowadays. In 1992, 9.75% of people nation-wide were tested to be HBsAg positive, in 2006, the percentage came down

to 7.18% with HBsAg positive. In this study, only 6% HBsAg positive were detected, showing that there is an overall decreasing trend in the number of people infected with the virus. This result also inferred a positive correlation between the level of education of these rural males and their likelihood of being HBsAg positive. It is predicted that a higher education level usually results in higher percentage of hepatitis B infection in the rural areas. Nevertheless, there are studies that show contradictory results to this data, and the validity and reliability of this correlation is yet to be testified. The infection rate has reached the nation's disease control objective for hepatitis B, however, the percentage only applies to the old rural male population, which makes it hard to represent the situation of the whole nation.

Furthermore, from the data of the survey, we can see that 27% of the sampling population tested positive for isolated anti-HBs, which is an indication that they have received the Hep.B vaccination and are hence immune to hepatitis B infection. Even though this percentage is higher than the 12% vaccination rate of rural residents

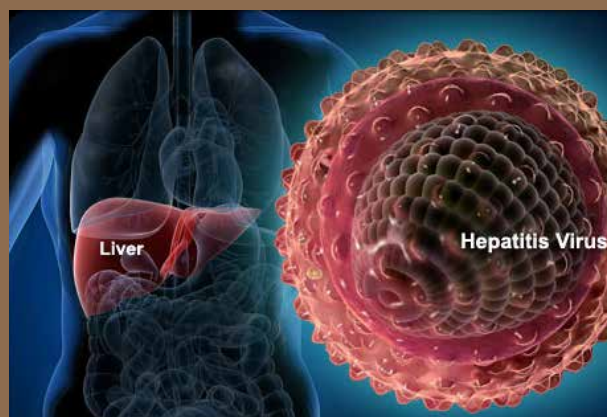


aged 12-59 in the year of 2006, it is still way smaller than the percentage of children who have received the Hep.B vaccination (more than 90% vaccination rate). In addition, older rural males show a lower percentage of vaccination than younger rural males. This demonstrates the urgent need for more prevalent distribution of the Hep. B vaccination amongst rural adults as a way to protect more vulnerable people from the disease. There is a general trend that the residents who live in the east coast of China have a higher rate of vaccination than those living in the mid-

west regions of China. However, more prevalence of hepatitis B infection is seen in the east coast, compared with that of the mid-west region. One possible reason for this trend could be the more

developed economy and commerce growth taking place along the east coast, giving rise to more opportunities for mutual human interaction leading to hepatitis B infection.

All in all, this survey study conducted by Professor Liu Min and his fellow team members was a great contribution to the study of the prevalence of hepatitis B in rural areas of China nowadays. The results from this article suggest that there is still a prevalence of HBV infection amongst rural males in China, however, the percentage of infected population is decreasing. There are still a large portion of the rural adult population who have never received any hepatitis vaccination, hence a firmer implementation of the vaccination amongst such population is strongly recommended. Furthermore, a more well-equipped health care system throughout the nation, covering both urban and rural areas, is essential to the prevention and treatment of the hepatitis B infection.



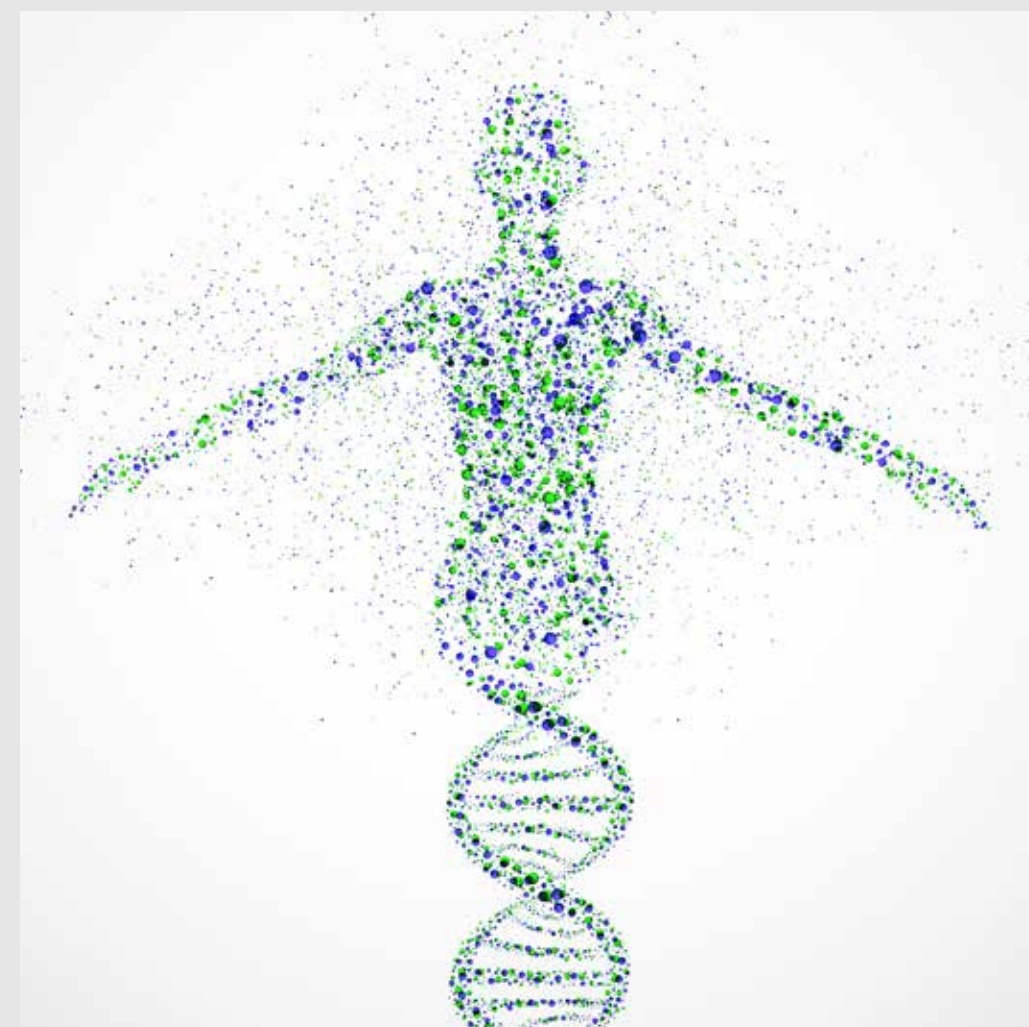
Team Develops a New Whole-Genome Amplification Method

✎ Zhou Ying

On September 4, 2015, the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) reported recent progress in whole-genome amplification (WGA) sequencing method. This research was completed under the collaboration of Professor Huang Yanyi from Biodynamic Optical Imaging Center, School of Life Science, Peking University, and Professor Sunney Xie from the Department of Chemical Biology, Harvard University.

Single-cell study is now one of the most essential and prevailing research fields, since most life activities are closely related to the difference between individual cells. Scientists often study numerous significant biological and medical problems depending on a small amount of cells. Conventional bulk genome characterization and probing genomic variations of heterogeneous population of cells are inaccessible in these situations. Single-cell sequencing, characterization the genome of individual cells is highly needed for studying scarce and/or precious cells. Single-cell whole-genome amplification (WGA) can fulfill this requirement.

Whole-genome amplification for next generation sequencing has seen wide and potential application in biology and medicine when characterization of the genome of a single cell is required. Compared with previous techniques, WGA can achieve high uniformity and fidelity, which is essential to accurately determine genomic variations, such as copy number variations (CNVs) and single nucleotide



variations (SNVs). However, WGA has limitations such as fluctuation of the amplification yield along the genome, as well as false-positive and -negative errors for SNV identification. The false positives arise from mis-incorporation of wrong bases in the first few cycles of WGA. Professor Huang's team optimized the old method and developed emulsion WGA (eWGA) to overcome these problems.

This method uses the small volume

of aqueous droplets in oil to better the WGA chemistry for uniform amplification of a single-cell genome. By disturbing single-cell genome DNA fragments into a large number (105) of picoliter droplets. A few DNA fragments in each droplet is allowed to reach saturation of DNA amplification. After merging droplets by demulsification, the differences in DNA amplification gain among DNA fragments are significantly minimized.

Huang's team first did eMDA sequencing library preparation. This procedure was used for the proof-of-concept of eWGA since MDA is an easy-going and widely used single-cell WGA protocol. They lysed individual cells to release genome DNA (gDNA) fragments and dehybridized them into single strands by heating. The solution was distributed into ~105 droplets by a microfluidic chip in the MDA reaction buffer. After testing, they found for a single diploid cell, each droplet contained one fragment on average. In each droplet, the polymerization reaction reached eventual saturation, which produced similar amount of amplification products.

Then they chose human umbilical vein endothelial cell, a normal human diploid cell line, to validate the amplification evenness of eMDA. Compared to the sequencing results with those single-cell MALBAC or conventional MDA reactions, eWGA showed the most uniform results and the smallest derivation across the whole genome.

After demonstrating the uniformity of eWGA method, they detected more homozygous and heterozygous SNVs by eMDA and the results showed the eMDA amplified normal diploid single cells with higher accuracy. This is because with eMDA, the reaction buffer is distributed to a large number of separated droplets, and the contaminated DNA will only in a small portion of droplets and not be overamplified.

In terms of CNV detection performance, they applied eMDA to sequence nine single HT-29 cancer cells expanded from a single clone. The CNV pattern of each single cell is almost identical to that of the monoclonal expanded bulk sample, which showed the improved amplification uniformity of eMDA allowed us to obtain more reliable genome-wide CNV pattern.

This method, eWGA, applies emulsion to divide the DNA fragments from a single cell to a large number of aqueous droplets in oil and drives the amplification to saturation in each droplet. The publication has drawn a



great deal of attention due to the accuracy and feasibility.

The first author of this article is Fu Siyu from Peking University, the corresponding author are Professor Huang Yanyi and Professor Sunney Xie. This work was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China Grants 21327808, 91313302, and 21222501.

recently shown to be the common adapter for NAIPs. The NAIP-NLRC4 inflammasomes perform effector functions against intracellular bacteria, play protective roles in mouse models of colitis-associated colorectal cancer, and serve as a potential strategy in tumor immunotherapy.

First, the researchers assembled the FliC-activated NAIP5-NLRC4 complex and the PrgJ-activated NAIP2-NLRC4 complex with the use of CARD-deleted NLRC4 (NLRC4Δ). Either full-length NAIP2 or N-terminal baculovirus inhibitor of apoptosis protein repeat (BIR) domain-deleted NAIP2 (NAIP2DBIR) was used. They collected cryo-electron microscopy data on the purified PrgJ-NAIP2-NLRC4Δ complex and reference-free two-dimensional (2D) classification revealed mostly 11-bladed, but also 12- and 10-bladed inflammasome complexes, implying conformational flexibility and an inflammasome disk. Using the crystal structure of NLRC4Δ, they built and refined an atomic model of the active NLRC4Δ. All structures have a domed center and a prominent inner hole. The inner ring of the disk contains the NBD, helical domain 1 (HD1), and the winged helix domain (WHD); the outer ring comprises helical domain 2 (HD2) and the LRR domain.

Next, they focused their research on the 11-bladed structure and find out that when the NBDHD1 regions of NLRC4 in the two states are aligned, the WHD-HD2-LRR module needs to rotate 87.5° along an axis at the junction between HD1 and WHD to turn from the inactive state to the active state. To facilitate analysis on NAIP2-NLRC4 interactions, they generated a homology model of

NAIP2DBIR by replacing one of the NLRC4 molecules in the initially fitted C11 structure and propose that the active NAIP2-A surface makes an initial encounter with the NLRC4-B surface in the inactive conformation to initiate the activating conformational change.

Their studies suggest that activation of NAIPNLRC4 inflammasomes may proceed through the following steps:

(i) After a cell is infected and bacterial products appear in the cytosol, a NAIP recognizes its specific bacterial ligand, likely through a surface on the HD1, WHD, and HD2 region. The specific ligand drives the NAIP into the open, activated conformation.

(ii) The ligand-bound NAIP uses its nucleating surface to interact with the adapter NLRC4 that is yet to be activated. The interaction forces the WHD and its linked C-terminal region to change into the activated conformation. The activated NLRC4 uses its newly exposed nucleating surface to repeat recruitment and activation of additional NLRC4 molecules, until a complete disk is formed or until the NLRC4 concentration falls below the dissociation constant of the interaction.

(iii) NLRC4 clustering induces

oligomerization of the CARD of NLRC4, enabling the recruitment of caspase-1 through CARD-CARD interactions and triggering caspase-1 dimerization, autoproteolysis, and activation. The activation mechanism ensures signal amplification from the receptor to the adapter, and then to the effector.

According to Professor Mao, "The task of analyzing the inflammasome structure is a typical example in which those conventional approaches like X-ray and NMR cannot help, in that the complex can assume multiple, coexisting conformations. However, this is exactly where real-space imaging by cryo-electron microscopy excels through its integration with high-performance computing, which allowed us to purify the conformations in silico. The cryo-EM structure of inflammasome increases our understanding of signal transduction in innate immunity to a new milestone, and establishes a molecular foundation for future development of cancer immunotherapy."

The Ph.D researcher Chen Shuo-bing and postdoctoral researcher of Harvard Medical School Zhang Manli are the co-first authors of this article. Professor Mao Youdong from the School of Physics and Professor Wu Hao from Harvard Medical School are the co-corresponding authors.

PKU Team Determines Structure of Inflammasome and its Nucleated Polymerization

by Lin Zixi

CAS Academician Professor Mao Youdong and Professor Ouyang Qi from the School of Physics, together with Professor Wu Hao from Harvard Medical School used Cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) to determine the structure of NAIP2-NLRC4 inflammasome at subnanometer resolution, and reveal the mechanism of polymerization into multi-subunit disk-like structures in NAIP-NLRC4 inflammasomes. The research was published online in the

Science journal, it was entitled "Cryo-EM Structure of the Activated NAIP2/NLRC4 Inflammasome Reveals Nucleated Polymerization" on October 8, 2015.

The nucleotide-binding domain (NBD) and leucine-rich repeat (LRR)-containing protein (NLR) family participates in the formation of inflammasomes that activate caspase-1 for cell death induction and cytokine maturation. The NLR family apoptosis inhibitory proteins (NAIPs) bind conserved bacterial ligands, such as the

bacterial rod protein PrgJ, and recruit NLR family CARD-containing protein 4 (NLRC4) as the inflammasome adapter to activate innate immunity. NAIP2 detects the inner rod protein of the bacterial type III secretion system, including Salmonella typhimurium PrgJ. NLR family caspase recruitment domain (CARD)-containing protein 4 (NLRC4) was initially found to participate in caspase-1 activation and interleukin (IL)-1 β secretion in response to cytoplasmic flagellin and was only



Donation from Beilun Charity Federation to Support Students in Need

▣ Fung Wai Yin

On November 15, 2015, the establishment ceremony for the Beilun Charity Federation Grant was held at Lin Hu Xuan. Ms. Jiang Suchun, Vice President of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Beilun District, Ningbo and President of the Beilun Charity Federation, as well as other donors and staff members of Peking University (PKU) attended the ceremony. During the ceremony, Ms. Jiang signed a donation agreement

with Deng Ya, Secretary General of the PKU Educational Foundation.

The donation was made by donors from Ningbo through Beilun Charity Federation with the help of alumnus, Hua Ligang. In Mr. Hua's speech, he gave a brief introduction of the grant, and expressed his sincere gratitude to the donors' and the generosity of the Beilun Charity Federation.

Afterwards, donor representative and marketing director of SPD Bank Ningbo branch, Mr. Shen Jicun,

delivered a speech and shared his experiences in charity work. He emphasized that students should never forget to extend a helping hand to the needy and to always bear social responsibility.

Last but not least, Ms. Jiang gave an inspiring speech, and she mentioned that charitable work has always been the main focus of her work. The Federation will continue their work in supporting students who are in need.

Alumni Sponsors PKU Students' Artistic Creation

▣ Zhong Xue

Mr. Yang Ruixiang and Mrs. Fang Xiaorui, alumni of Peking University and founders of Millionstone Arts Co. Ltd., signed a donation agreement to set up the Millionstone Artistic Fund to support artistic and all-round development of Peking University (PKU) students.

The couple, both alumni from the class of 1986, majored in natural sciences but had breakthroughs in the art industry. PKU has a long tradition of aesthetic education and pays great attention to comprehensive development of students. Professor Wu Zhipan, Executive Vice President of PKU and Vice President of the PKU Edu-

cation Foundation, expressed gratitude for the donation in his speech. He emphasized that their contributions will inspire future aesthetic education and provide better opportunities for PKU students to engage in artistic creation.

The couple started their own business and became creative designers.

For over a decade, they have grown and developed their company, and they are grateful for the comprehensive education that PKU provided for them, which enables them to be artists despite their natural science backgrounds. With their contribution to PKU, they will help develop students' creativity.



CMS Educational Fund for Nurturing Future Leaders

▣ Fung Wai Yin

On November 11, 2015, the donation ceremony for the China Merchants Securities (CMS) Educational Fund for Future Leaders was held at the Tan Siu Lin Center for International Studies. Wang Yan, President and CEO of CMS, Wu Zhipan, Executive Vice President of Peking University (PKU), Deng Ya, Secretary-General of the PKU Educational Fund, and Liu Mingli, Associate Dean of the graduate school, were all

in attendance. During the ceremony, Wang Yan handed over the donation check to the school; receiving in return from Executive Vice President Wu the PKU Educational Contribution Award as a symbol of PKU's appreciation.

Speaking on behalf of the school, Executive Vice President Wu first expressed sincere gratitude to CMS for their generous contribution. He also stressed the significance of postgraduate funding for the future develop-

ment of the University. The funding will be used for various means, from academic development to global exchanges.

President Wang, himself a 1982 graduate of PKU, then delivered his speech. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to PKU for nurturing such outstanding students, and voiced his hope that with the establishment of the CMS fund that PKU could better help give back to society.

Donation Ceremony by AAC Technologies Holdings Inc. to PKU Held in Shenzhen ▣ Liu Xiya

On December 15, 2015, the donation ceremony for the American Audio Component Technologies Holdings Inc. (AAC) to Peking University (PKU) was held in Shenzhen, China. Top executives of AAC, including President Pan Zhengmin; Director Wu Chunyuan; Vice-President Zhang Xiaoyu; Assistant to the Executive Director Liu Yihui, and Assistant President Huang Yongdong attended the ceremony. Additionally, Gao Song, Vice President of PKU; Li Xiaoming, Assistant to the President and head of PKU massive open online courses (MOOC); Liu Bo, head of PKU's Department of Hu-

man Resources; Yao Weihao, Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology Development; and Zhao Wenli, Deputy Secretary-General of PKU Education Foundation. According to the deal signed by both sides, AAC will make a donation to PKU to establish the "PKU-AAC: PKU Professors on MOOC" program, which aims at encouraging and supporting teachers and professors at PKU to be accessible to students around the world through MOOC, and to promote the popularization and development of online education in China.

As one of the most prestigious universities in China, PKU has long been

dedicated to promoting higher education in China, providing superior education for more and more people, and in this way, promoting MOOC programs also promotes social equity in education.

AAC Technologies is the world's leading comprehensive micro-component solutions provider. Its cooperation with PKU also showed its concern as well as its determination to support the future development of Chinese education. The establishment of the PKU-AAC program will greatly help professors share their own academic achievements with the public and foster better online education in China.

How to Give

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West Gate (Alumni Gate)

Decades elapsed and generations passed, but the West Gate of Peking University stood firm under the test of time. Also known as the Alumni Gate, the West Gate shouldered the great responsibility of guarding Peking University. The plaque of “Peking University” hangs proudly, overlooking the numerous outstanding students that eagerly pass through it each year. The historic architecture distinguishes itself in the modern age, and with a closer look, one could see the marks that history has left and the footprints that time has etched on the West Gate.

The West Gate was presented by the alumni of Yenching University, and became the most well-known gate for its distinct appearance after Yenching University merged into Peking University in 1952. Visitors coming through the West Gate can admire the beauty of the architecture, bathe in the academic atmosphere and picture the spirit of cultivation which is the core of Peking University.

Two stone lions stand in front of the West Gate as if to protect whoever that walks through the gate. The West Gate is not simply a gate, it is a window that allows people to take a glance into the pure beauty of Peking University, and also a symbol of gesture that beckons people to immerse themselves in knowledge-seeking.

