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Aug 2015 Issue 9







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Message from Diplomats to China

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Message from Ms.Irene Sim, Economic Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in China:

I wish all friends of The Diplomats': Good Health, Harmonious Family, Prosperity and All the Best! May 27, 2015

















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News at a Glance News in Brief

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Summing-up Meeting Held on the Construction of Jianwai Media Centre

On June 16, BDS Housing Service Corporation held a summary meeting on the completion of the Jianwai Media Centre Project. A total number of over 100 officials and technicians including Qian Hongshan, Assistant Foreign Minister, all the BDS responsible members and representatives of the project's general contractor attended the meeting.

Work on the Media Centre started in September 2011 and it lasted for over 1300 days. Having gone through hard work, the project has been completed with a perfect success. Different from other office towers and diplomatic apartment building of BDS, this Media Centre not only creates brand new and high quality living environment for clients from various diplomatic missions and foreign media agencies, but also provides featured service facilities such as well-equipped multi-functional halls with cutting edge technology to adapt to the needs of news media clients. It will no doubt serve as an important integral part of the Chinese Capital's media centre.







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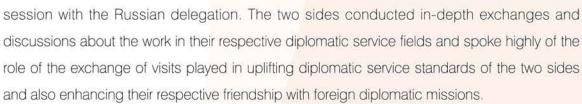
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Website: http://www.dhsc.com.cn

BDS Receives the Delegation of Russian General Diplomatic Service Bureau

From June 22 to 27, a delegation from the Russian General Diplomatic Service Bureau headed by its deputy director general Alexey Izotov paid a working visit to BDS.





After the meeting, director general Yuan Weimin accompanied deputy director general Alexey Izotov in a visit to Qijiayuan and Liangmaqiao Diplomatic Residence Compounds and also BDS Duty-Free Shop. Accompanied by BDS executive deputy director general Jiang Qi, the Russian delegation visited Shanghai.













With the Debut of the Jianwai Central Square Samoa National Day Celebration was Attended by Many Distinguished Guests

On May 31, the national day reception of the Independent State of Samoa was held on the Central Square of Jianwai DRC. More than 260 guests attended the reception. They include ambassadors of a number of countries such as the Pacific Island, Jamaica, Vanuatu, Ghana, etc. and responsible members of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. BDS executive deputy director general Jiang Qi also attended this reception.

This event also marks a nice beginning of the extended services rendered by the Central Square of Jianwai DRC of BDS Housing Service Corporation. The BDS Housing Service Corporation will turn Jianwai DRC Central Square into a new brand with special features combining both culture and diplomacy.



The Children's Horizon Common Vision Children's Get-together for Diplomatic Missions

On May 31, a children's friendship gathering was held jointly by the Commonwealth Society of Beijing (CSB) and BDS Housing Service Corporation at the Central Garden of Tayuan DRC. Ms.Qin Xiaomei (wife of the former Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing), vice chairwomen of the Former Chinese Diplomats Association, well-known entrepreneur Mao Xiaoqing (niece of the Late Chairman Mao Zedong), CSB president Huseina Demuyakor, Ms.Jiang Qi, BDS executive deputy director general, ambassadors of Ghana, Papua New Guinea and Guiné-Bissau, and other guests from more than 100 foreign diplomatic missions, international organizations and foreign media agencies with a total number of 400 Chinese and foreign guests attended the gathering.







BDS Deputy Director General Wang Bingnan Attended an Event related to the Italian Foreign Minister's Visit to China

On April 28, on the occasion of the visit of the Italian Foreign and International Cooperation Minister Paolo Gentiloni and at the invitation of the Italian ambassador to China Mr. Alberto Bradanini, BDS deputy director general Wang Bingnan attended the inauguration of the new premises of the Italian Consulate General in Chongqing. After the ceremony, the Italian minister visited the Italian Visa Center in Chongqing and extended thanks to Wang Bingnan for the efforts BDS made for the establishment of the center.



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Beijing Duty Free Shop for Diplomatic Missions

Address: N0.44 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang

District, Beiing

Tel: (010) 6532 4678

E-Mail: bjdfssd@vip.sina.com

Website: www.bjdfs.com

Online shop:http://shijie.jd.com/





On the evening of June 19, the day of Duanwu Festival (Dragon Boat Festival), an entirely new sort of summer party was given at the Qijiayuan DRC.

BDS Duty Free Shop, as the wine sponsor for the party, carefully selected hot favorite wines of Envoy Classics available at its online shop and also newly imported Korean beers. Its quality products and meticulous and warm-hearted service won wide acclaim from all the party guests.







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7

Erhu Course Offered recently by LCC

Course on playing Erhu was recently launched by Beijing Language and Cultural Centre for Diplomatic Missions (LCC for short). This Course proceeds from simple basics to more difficult skills. After completion of this course, trainees will be expected to play simple pieces under the tutor's direction.

Erhu (Chinese pinyin: èrhú) is a two-stringed musical instrument called the Chinese Violin or the Chinese Two-Stringed Violin. Among the big family of Huqin, the traditional Chinese stringed musical instruments, Erhu is most popular.

(Please log onto LCC website for further information)



BDS Insurance Agency—China Life Insurance 999 Emergency Rescue by Air Officially Linked Online

China's first ever insurance product for emergency rescue by air has already been put online and also onto the platform of WeChat jointly by the Insurance Agency of BDS Personnel Service Corporation and the Beijing Branch of China Life Insurance. Such a service will provide convenience in the form of most immediate first aid and medical treatment in case of any emergency for both diplomatic missions and other Chinese and foreign clients as well.

Insurance Proposal Age Coverage Range: from 180 day's young to 70 years old

Scope of Liability: Acute and severe cases of accidental injuries or designated cases of severe and acute illness to be confirmed by authorized doctors

Scope of Insurance Guarantee: Cost of transportation in case of emergency rescue by air, medical expenses for such rescue, death caused by the accident, and also disability, burns and medical expenses for accidental injuries

Air Rescue: Including the fees for the surface ambulance to proceed to the site of the helicopter's take-off; the fees for the helicopter's rescue from the take-off point to the landing point; fees for the ambulance from the landing point to the hospital.

Insurance Proposal Platform:

1.Internet Platform for the Proposal:

http://106.37.188.166/customsecond/pages/airResc999.jsp?auth_key=256A7B8A873B43939C851990C644B3BE 2.WeChat Platform for the Proposal:Scan the 2-D barcode (QR code) below



For more details, please contact the Insurance Agency of BDS Personnel Service Corporation. Telephone number: 64638402

[Events of Diplomatic Missions]

1 Art Exchange Exhibition Jointly Sponsored by the Chinese and Singaporean Sides

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and Singapore, an Art Exchange Exhibition titled "Carrying forward and Expansion" sponsored by Hakaren Art Gallery of Singapore with the assistance of Tsinghua University Art Research Centre and the Singaporean General Association of Art was held from May 9 to 15 at the Art Gallery of the Art College of Tsinghua University. This exhibition will continue to be put on afterwards in Singapore.

Collected at the exhibition are 56 pieces of works by 14 Chinese and Singaporean artists. The collection includes Chinese ink paintings, oil paintings and the synthesized material paintings. All Chinese painters participating in the exhibition are followers of the Chinese master painter Wu Guanzhong. The Singaporean painters include Lim Tse Peng and Ho Ho Ying. All the painters involved on both sides are well-known artists with outstanding attainments and extensive social influence.

This exhibition is not only a demonstration of the many years' exploration results of the painters and their talents as well, but also serves as an excellent communication of the appeals of the culture and art between China and Singapore. (Source: Singapore Zaobao Daily)











8000 Beijing Citizens Attended the Event of the Open Day of the Danish Embassy in China

On May 9, 2015, the Danish Embassy in China staged its fifth Open Day. Such kind of event has been held consecutively in the last five years. According to the report, the Open Day this year was particularly a "hit". Over 8000 Beijing citizens attended the event.

On the Open Day, quite several zones were set up on the premises of the Embassy. These zones included Gourmet Food Zone, Lucky Draw Zone featuring activities by Danish enterprises, Designing Exhibition Zone and Cultural Appreciation Zone, etc. Danish chef John Pedersen showed for

the second time with "on the Stage Cooking Demonstration". The master chef brought to Beijing citizens the Neo-Nordic cuisine menu and skills and the audience on the scene were invited to taste the freshly prepared Danish dishes.

On the Open Day, the various Danish brand names also set up stands to promote their products. The Lego stand attracted a great number of kids. The Danish Dairy Products Exhibition Zone offered intelligence competition and shooting the basket within limited time. The police dog Ticko who travelled to Beijing all the way from Copenhagen showed various criminal investigation skills and won rounds of applause from the audience.

H.E. Friis Arne Petersen, the Danish ambassador to China "shuttle tripped" between various zones, enthusiastically interacted with the public and having pictures taken together with them. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral diplomatic relations. A series of activities and events by the two countries are expected to follow. (Source: xinhua net)



Feature

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AIIB, We Have Come!

At the end of February 2015, Beijing Personnel Service Corporation for Diplomatic Missions (hereinafter referred to as BDS Personnel Co.) received a letter from the AllB Preparatory Management Company, Ltd., which confirmed that BDS Personnel Co. had successfully won the bidding to become the outsourcing service provider for AllB.



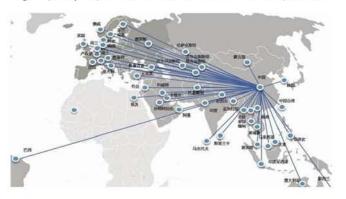




This tendering success is mainly attributable to the powerful resource support and rich diplomatic service experience of the Chinese Foreign Ministry and Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions (BDS for short) in the fields of human resources, housing service, hotels and catering, duty-free shops, medical service, visa facilitation and translation, tourism and conference facilities, car rental, language training and children's education, etc. Since its establishment in 1981, BDS Personnel Co. has all along providing in the main human resources and the relevant supporting services for diplomatic missions of various countries, representative offices of international organizations and foreign news media agencies including the representative offices in China of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. So far BDS Personnel Co. has signed Labor Service Contracts on the Dispatch and Employment of Chinese Citizens with more than 300 foreign institutions

including 145 diplomatic missions, 25 international organizations and over 100 news media agencies. Over the last 30 odd years since its establishment, BDS Personnel Co. has built up a huge contingent of diplomatic service personnel composed of experienced, conscientious and capable professionals who are ready to provide comprehensive, considerate, patient and meticulous services at any time. BDS Personnel Co. possesses rich human resources with a total number of more than 4000 employees who can be divided into both categories of office staff and technical and non-technical workers. The office staff comprises translator cum interpreters and also secretaries while its workers include cooks, drivers, maintenance workers and cleaners, etc. The number of translators and secretaries exceeds 2000 of professionals who use respectively over 20 foreign languages such as English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Italian and German as their working languages.

The quality service of BDS Personnel Co. has won extensive acclaims from its foreign clients. The Representative Office of the World Bank said in its letter of thanks to BDS Personnel Co.: "Your Corporation exercises strict and standardized management with an experienced, capable and high quality diplomatic service staff. The corporation





has provided highly efficient and timely service for our office in the fields of employee management and visa application facilitation for the family members of our international employees. Our office is willing to maintain and strengthen our exchanges and cooperation with your corporation and constantly push our bilateral cooperation into new depth." The Representative Office of the Asian Development Bank wrote in its letter of appreciation to BDS Personnel Co.: "Since our establishment in 2000, your corporation has provided us with all round and high quality service. In the fields of engagement and discharge of the employees, their insurance premium payment, personnel files management, employment recommendation, training and also visa application facilitation for the family members of our international employees, your service has been both timely and efficient. The hard work, warm-hearted attitude and quality service of your corporation staff makes it possible for us to carry on our work smoothly."

AllB, with its full name as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, is a multilateral development institution of an intergovernmental nature with its focus on the support of infrastructural construction. With its headquarters established in Beijing, the founding of AllB can date back to October 2, 2013 when President Xi Jinping made the proposal for the preparation of its founding during his visiting tour of Southeast Asia. On October 24, 2014, financial ministers or the authorized representatives of the first group of intended founders of AllB including China, India and Singapore signed in Beijing a Memorandum on the AllB Preparation, jointly deciding to set up the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The founding of AllB will make up for the tremendous shortfalls of the Asian developing countries in the sphere of infrastructure investment, reduce the outflow of intraregional funds from Asia with the emphasis on the "vitality and development" of Asia. Meanwhile, the founding of AllB will also greatly

promote the vigorous development of various aspects of the tertiary sector including personnel service. .

At present, eight employees from BDS Personnel Co. covering six posts of secretary, receptionist, cashier, liaison, logistics and administration have been placed smoothly on the jobs at the AIIB Headquarters after going through systematic pre-job training. The two sides have set up service communication and coordination mechanism through which the two sides will conduct timely communication and feedbacks on the service performance of the employees and also the future service needs. On April 21, BDS Personnel Co. executives made a special return visit to the Multilateral Temporary Secretariat of AIIB.

The cooperation between BDS Personnel Co. and AllB is mutually beneficiary and a win-win situation. On the one hand, the advanced human resources platform, the real time policy updating, strict working procedure and standardized operation of BDS Personnel Co. can help AllB properly avoid employment risks, its professional service can relieve AllB of the complicated details of personnel matters so that AllB can devote all its energy to its professional sphere and thus raising its work efficiency. Meanwhile, Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions which BDS Personnel Co. is affiliated to boasts powerful resources of a huge group and can render AllB multiple services, for instance, issuance of invitational letters to AllB foreign employees, handling and arrangement of their employment certificates, residence permits, visas to go to a third country, social security insurance, private income tax withholding payments, car rental, duty free commodities and various







service items such as translation, visa, hotel accommodation, conference and exhibition, etc. On the other hand, AIIB as a newly-emerging international banking institution has huge potentials for service demands in various aspects, thus offering unlimited possibilities for the development of BDS itself.

On the occasion of the advent of this historical opportunity, Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions can say with full confidence: AllB, we have come!

"China Style"

Favored by the Ring-Do Car Rental Centre for Its Foreign Affair-Related Protocol Limousines

On March 20, 2015, a bright and charming spring day in Beijing, early in the afternoon and bathed in brilliant sunshine, rows of Geely GC9 limousines were displayed on the lawn of Fangfei Garden of the Diaoyutai State Guest House. These Geely cars, dubbed "the most beautiful cars independently developed by China" and featuring traditional Chinese elements in their exterior design, became the focus of attention for many Chinese and foreign friends. Inside the Fangfei Hall with a capacity for 1000 people, Geely Borui (literal meaning: complete gook luck and prosperity) Limousine Handover Ceremony jointly sponsored by the Ring-do Car Centre and the Geely Holding Group was being held.





Qian Hongshan, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Li Shufu, Chairman of Geely Group and envoys and senior diplomats from 16 foreign diplomatic missions including that of Belgium, Uruguay and the U.K. attended the event. Su Wen, BDS deputy director general addressed the ceremony and extended warm welcome to the guests.

Foreign affairs-related protocol limousines are provided by the Ring-do Car Rental Centre for high-grade use of foreign affairs. These limousines are oriented towards upscale client groups such as diplomatic envoys, senior business executives of foreign enterprises and also international media agencies. Geely Borui is the first ever national brand of China selected by



the Ring-do Centre, which demonstrates the full confidence placed by the Ring-do Centre on the potential and strength of China's car manufacturing industry as a whole.

To showcase our national features and promote the national pride, at the hand-over ceremony, a piece of calligraphy representative of the Chinese culture was employed instead of the conventional key inlaid in the foamed board. The assistant foreign minster Qian Hongshan and Geely chairman Li Shufu jointly unfolded the scroll on the podium. Eight vigorously stroked Chinese characters of "Bo Rui Qian Kun, Li Bin Tian Xia" (literal meaning: Good Lucks fill the whole world while the correct protocol shows itself in all respects) appeared in front of the guests. The ceremony signified the official hand over of

the 50 Geely GC9 limousines which will be used as protocol limousines for the events of foreign affairs. Diplomatic envoys and senior diplomats from 16 countries witnessed this heart-stirring moment.

This ceremony was organized by the Ring-do Cultural Company Ltd. of Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions



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In 2015, new members are added to DRC — Liangmagiao Diplomatic Office Building (hereinafter referred to as the Liang Office) and Jianwai Media Center (hereinafter referred to as the Media Center) have been successively unveiled. These two projects are superior projects forged by BDS through 10 years painstaking efforts. These two projects can greatly facilitate the work and life of various diplomatic missions, representative offices of international organizations, media agencies of various countries and their staff as well by providing first-rated housing facilities for their office or residential use. At the new spring reception when the initial release of the two projects was given, wide attentions were attracted immediately from all quarters. Since the two projects were officially launched, extensive attention and universal acclaim have kept pouring in from clients of diplomatic missions, media agencies and senior business executives. These properties have shot up to become their first choice in terms of office and residential use in Beijing. Up to June 2015, the Liang Office has already achieved an occupancy rate of 91.6% while the office block of the Media Center has registered an occupancy rate of 59% and the Center's residential part has scored a rate of 27%.

The hot sale of the new projects is attributable not only to our rich experience accumulated over the years in rendering housing service to the high-end clients of diplomatic missions, but also to the full understanding of the advantages of our own products, correct market orientation and reasonable marketing price and strategy.

On the one hand, starting from 2013, we have conducted successively a series of themed training on the marketing of office buildings, for instance, senior executives for the lease of office spaces were invited to give symposiums, responsible members of BDS Capital Construction Division, the Engineering Department of the BDS Housing Service Co. and the project's contractors are invited to attend the relevant project training so as to provide our sales people with systematic awareness and understandings of both the two projects themselves and the office building.

On the other hand, we have conducted targeted research and investigation of the Lufthansa Commercial Circle where the Liang Office is located and also the office buildings around the Media Center. We made detailed market investigation through

visits to the relevant sites and also telephone or mail inquiries, thus laying foundation for the rational and effective pricing on the two projects. Understanding gives rise to love while love gives rise to devoted input. It is exactly on the strength of our excellent professional service that we have won the trust and appreciation of our clients for years.



In fierce market competitions, as a saying goes "Even good wine needs bush", effective publicity and powerful promotion are definitely indispensable to successful marketing. With a view to attracting the attention from our traditional clients such as diplomatic missions, representative offices of international organizations and foreign news media, we have conducted a host of public relations and promotional activities oriented towards different groups including missions, media agencies and intermediaries. As a result, the Liang Office and Media Center have achieved their initial success.





On February 26, 2014, joining hands with the Property Management Department of Jianwai DRC, we held successfully a Briefing on Jianwai Media Center, opening the prelude to the pre-renting of Jianwai Media Center.

On March 19, 2014, we staged the New Spring Reception cum Promotional Briefing on the Liang Office and the Media Center, sounding the clarion call for the pre-renting of the Liang Office and once again introducing the Media Center to our traditional clients. The two big projects started to attract the wide attention of our friends from diplomatic missions and news media agencies.

On April 29, 2014, we gave a Promotional Briefing for the Intermediaries on Liangmaqiao Diplomatic Office Building and Jianwai Media Center at the Liangmaqiao DRC, officially pushing the two projects into the market.

On June 21, 2014, availing ourselves of the platform of the

event of Liangmaqiao • Chinese and Foreign Cultures Show by Diplomats and through the publicity by use of portable displays and the distribution of the property brochures and the relevant VCD discs, we once again promoted the two property projects towards diplomatic missions and gained satisfactory results.

On March 25, 2015, the promotion of the Media Center became the theme of 2015 • DRC Reception in Honor of Diplomatic Missions. Meanwhile the conference supporting services for the Liang Office were also introduced at the reception, consolidating the popularity and influence of the two projects among the clients of diplomatic missions.

On April 14, 2015, through staging DRC Promotion Briefing for Intermediaries, we made publicity to about 100 friends from intermediary companies.

In addition, we made every effort in conducting a series of

online marketing activities, comprehensively strengthening our promotion on the internet. We displayed the graphic property brochures of the two projects respectively at the websites of BDS Housing Service Co., BDS and Xinlang Microblog.

Along with the step by step publicity and promotion of the two projects, Liangmaqiao Diplomatic Office Building and Jianwai Media Center have not only emerged as landmark architectures respectively at the Lufthansa and Jianwai Commercial Circles with their magnificent building exteriors, but also attracted with high-end service content high-end clients from different quarters. Traditional clients such as the embassies of UK, Rwanda, the Philippines and Eritrea and the NHK (Japan Broadcasting Co.) have come to the Media Center successively. Some World Top 500 enterprises from home and abroad such as NEC and the German Center have chosen the Liang Office as their new office venues.

Make home away from home at the DRC with a beautiful win-win prospect for the future! We will, as always, welcome your arrival with our professional and outstanding housing services.





The computer classrooms of BDS Information and Training Centre are located in the Sanlitun Embassy Zone, just by the eastern side of Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building. These classrooms, all fully equipped with computer hard and soft wares and other advanced multi-medium teaching equipments, are technically supported by our high-caliber professionals at all times. These computer classrooms are strategically situated and easily accessible. Besides, we can also provide other auxiliary services such as tea breaks and so on. On many occasions, computer training services are rendered here to various diplomatic missions including the American and British embassies in China. Our professional training environment and quality service have been well received by embassies concerned and their employee trainees.





There are respectively 26 computer sets in the two classrooms. The Lenovo sets are equipped with dual-core inter processors/2GB memory/high speed hard disk/17 inch LCD monitors. In the classrooms, 10 Mbps fiber optics wide band, HD projecting equipments, HF audio system and air conditioners are all available.

Diplomatic missions, news media agencies and business companies are welcome to contact us for further information and rent the classroom.

Address of the Classrooms: No.3 Xiliujie Sanlitun, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Telephone number for Inquiry: 010-65591402 / 13910847830

Mail Box: xinxi@bsbdm.com.cn



Rate of the Rent:

- RMB 1800 yuan for half a day
- RMB 3000 yuan for a full day



SIA SEMERATE SERVING A Newly Emerging Country

By Zhang Tiegen



MERLIONO

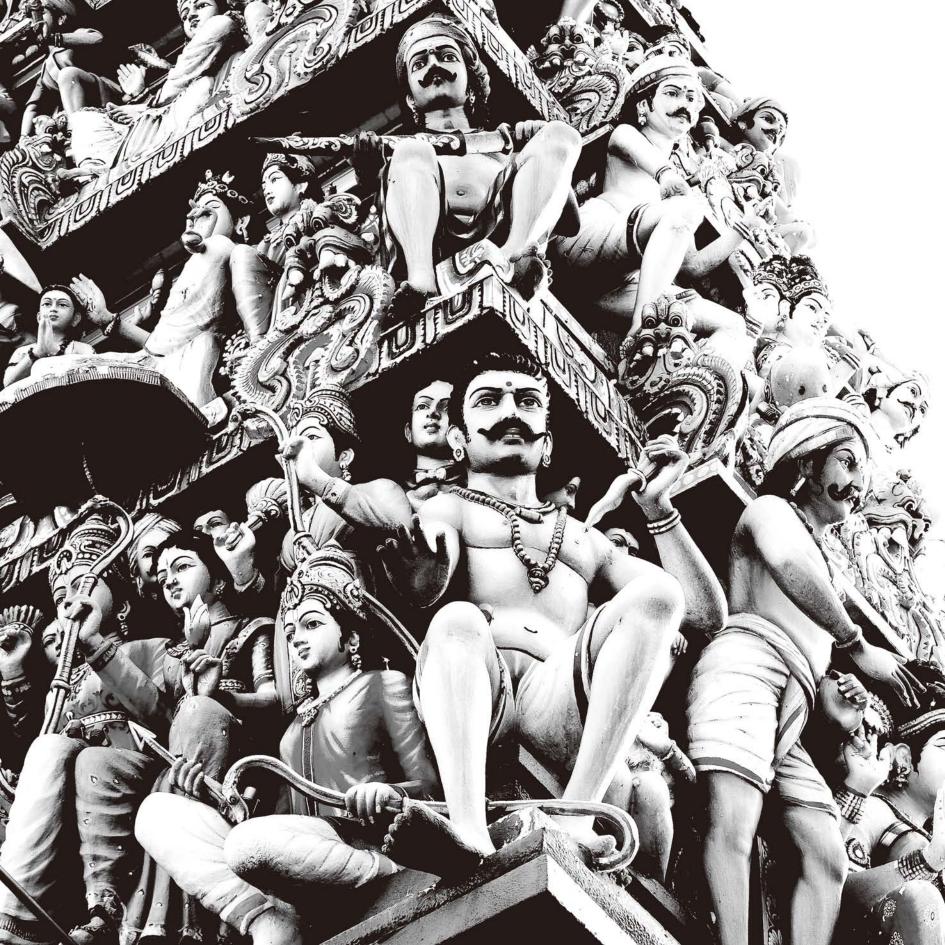
Singapore became renowned far and near along with its emerging as one of the "Four Asian Tigers (literal translation: Four Little Dragons in Asia)." In the Chinese history, Singapore was once referred to as Tumasik and Temasek. In the eighth century, Singapore belonged to the Sri Vijaya Empire which was established in what is now Sumatra of Indonesia. That was a Buddhist country and once most prosperous in the Southeast Asia. The name of Singapore which is in use today has its origin in Singapore of Sanskrit which means "Lion City". The legend has it that when one of the princes of Sri Vijaya Empire landed on the Singapore Island for the first time, he came across a beast in the shape of a lion. Therefore he named the island "Lion City". This name has been used all along since the 13th century. While touring Singapore, people would be most likely attracted by the image of Merlion, which serves as the sign and symbol of Singapore. The lion head of the Merlion stands for the Lion City while its fish tail signifies the history that Singapore used to be a fishing village. The Merlion displays both the charming naivety of the lion and the vivacity and nimbleness of the fish. Besides, the Merlion, spitting out fountain water all the year round, adds heart-stirring and graceful bearing to Singapore.











CHINATOWN







Singapore is a melting pot of multi-cultures. English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil are all its official languages. In terms of historical development, Sri Vijaya Empire was a Buddhist country which was subsequently replaced by the Majapahit Empire dominated by Hinduism; whereas the Malaysian Johore Empire, the ruler of Singapore in the 18-19 centuries was already a Muslim country. By the beginning of the 19th century, Singapore had been reduced to the status of a British colony. The British rule lasting for as long as more than one century certainly left some marks of the Western civilization.

However, the Chinese descendants comprise 75% of the total population of Singapore, and the Chinese civilization has already taken deep root in Singapore. The Confucius culture has spread widely in Singapore. By this point and In passing, my advice is that you might as well go to Singapore's Chinatown (牛车水街—literal English translation: Carrying-Water-with-Ox-Cart Street; the area is known as the Chinatown of Singapore) for a visit. It has gradually taken shape since 1821. In those years, overseas

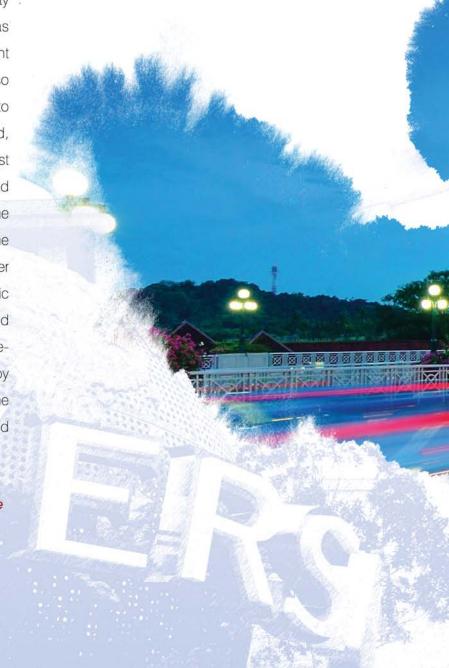
Chinese moving down southward from Xiamen and other places of Fujian settled down south of the River of Singapore. In the absence of running water, Chinese settlers had to go with their ox carts to fetch water from a well in Ann Siang Hill. In due course of time, the area got this name. In the nowadays Chinatown of Singapore, many shopping malls tower side by side, and various vendor's stalls and timehonored (even century old) shops are adjacent to each other. It can be said that the area is an epitome of the process of the modern development of Singapore. In Singapore, various ethnic groups such as Chinese, Malay and Indian descendants live together harmoniously. Spring Festival, Lesser Bairam (the Festival of Fast -breaking), Thaipusam and Christmas are all observed as national holidays. During holidays, people of different ethnic groups hold various celebrations, and they call on each other's homes to exchange festival greetings and good wishes. They also taste featured cakes and snacks, present Red Envelops or Blue-Green Wraps to kids, which all adds to the jubilant atmosphere.



SENTOSA O

In Singapore, there is a tourist sight which is a must for all visitors. That is Sentosa Islet, which in the Malay language means "peace and tranquility." Situated to the south of the Island of Singapore and with an area of 3.47 square kilometers, it is only 500 meters from the city. center. Before 1972, it used to be a desolated islet, but now it has been turned into a world class tourist haunt. This islet has luxuriant woods with blue waves undulating along the coast. Sentosa Islet also boasts a natural pathway — the Dragon Path which leads tourists to scenic sights and historic remains such as the Underwater World, Orchid Garden, Butterfly Garden, the World Insect Museum. I like most to go to this islet to enjoy its night scene. Looking ahead, a myriad twinkling lights on the Island of Singapore and the misty outlines of one and another huge ocean-going ships anchoring at the port will come to your eyes. When the Sentosa Music Fountain begins to show, water columns will dance along with the rhythms and beats of the symphonic music; stories will be presented based on the pictures projected on the water screen by utilizing high tech such as laser and threedimensional animation. Sitting on the viewing stand and caressed by the gentle sea breeze, visitors can watch the changing scenes on the water curtain while enjoying the beautiful music. What a pleasant and refreshing sight!

(The author once served as the political counselor of the Chinese embassy in Singapore.)







One of the Four Asian Tigers, Lee Kuan Yew, multi-ethnic groups, Merlion, Sentosa, "no bringing in of chewing gum", caning punishment, five star-rated Singaporean Airlines, Stefanie Sun, etc...... Singapore, in spite of its small size, has successfully attracted the world's attention with its unique symbols one after another. Why Singapore is called a Garden City? What advanced state governance concept and experience in education can it offer? How can ethnic integration and national harmony be achieved? What to eat and how to play in Singapore? With all these questions in mind, The editor of the Diplomats' (previously known as Reading Delights in BDS) came to the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in China to find the answers from an interview with Ms. Irene Sim, economic counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in China. The conversation started from a pleasant vacation trip to Singapore by the editor of the Diplomats'......

The interviewee of this Issue

Ms. Irene Sim





Strict Law Enforcement plus Moral Education Has Brought about a Garden City

The Editor: When I first stepped on the land of Singapore, its neat, clean and green environment were the very first impression left on my mind. Singapore is indeed worthy its title of a Garden City. The long rain shelters in the public areas provide protection for the public against both rain and the blazing sun. One cannot but highly acclaim how considerate Singapore is for its people.

The Counsellor: Singapore is a country of immigrants. The early groups of immigrants were mostly engaged in manual labor such as agriculture, fishing and transport. They did not pay much attention to the maintenance of city environment. At that time, spitting and littering were commonly seen and the living environment was lousy. The change from the then dirty and disorderly environment to the present-day garden city should be attributed to our late Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. Under his direction, the Singaporean government, by drawing on the managerial experience from advanced countries at that time and starting from the environmental sanitation in each

and every corner, formulated strict legal system and management regulations. The government kept on putting the rule of law above everything else. Any law violator must be strictly dealt with. Now in Singapore, all those who smoke, spit or masticate chewing gum in public places or bring in chewing gum from foreign land, be they Singaporeans or foreigners, must be fined heavy amounts. The stringency of the Singaporean law towards violation of environment is something rare in the whole world.



Apart from law, nice city environment also replies on the maintenance effort of every citizen. The education of Singapore is devoted to raising the moral cultivation and civility standards and it helps to uplift comprehensively the all round quality of its nationals. Our education attaches much importance to its real effect. Having absorbed the advantages of the courses of the Western education and in the meantime increased the content of the Asian culture. the Singaporean education is an extremely scientific system. The Singaporean students must accept from their childhood the education of moral courses including the Confucius and Mencius stories of China. At the stage of high school, they must choose their religious belief. Through the imperceptible effect of the education, the public discarded their previous unhealthy acts, and gradually formed the habit of consciously safeguarding the public sanitation. They also joined hands in creating an orderly society with high citizen moral sense.



Quality Education Facilitates the Training of Qualified Professionals throughout the World

The Editor: The education standards of Singapore have all along ranked top of the world. In 1992, Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of China's reform and opening up went down south and he made well-known remarks of the southern inspection tour in Shenzhen. He mentioned in the speech: "You should go abroad to have a look and learn from various countries including Singapore in particular. They have nice social disciplines and good social order. We should draw on their experience and do even better than them in our governance and management."Since then, tens of thousands of Chinese officials have been sent to Singapore to learn and research. Some outstanding BDS cadres, funded by the Chinese and Singaporean Premiers' Scholarship also got opportunity to study at the Nanyang Technological University. Besides, admired by students throughout the world and particularly the students from other Asian countries, Singapore has become one of the most favorable destinations for foreign students.

The Counsellor: Starting from the years of 1990's, Singapore has provided multi-subject training courses for cadres of different provinces of China. At present, there are seven programs of training courses covering multi-aspects such as economic development and social management and governance, etc. The Singaporean training authorities would arrange professionals in the same profession and field to give lectures and also other training in the light of the different types of work

which the trainees are engaged in so as to guarantee that trainees can not only learn the advanced system and education philosophy, but also better target their training at their own work. In addition to comprehensive courses, the Singaporean trainers would provide tailor-made training courses based on the needs of the trainees, and also renovate and update the training programs to open some brand new courses for the study and research of the Chinese cadres.

Apart from training coursed offered by schools, Singapore also trains Chinese cadres through various bilateral cooperation projects. Before taking up my present post, I served as a deputy director general of the Northeast Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore and was in charge of promoting the economic and trade cooperation between Singapore and various Chinese provinces. I am quite familiar with the Suzhou Industrial Park co-developed by the two governments of Singapore and China. The Singaporean side not only brought funds and projects, but also trained large numbers of talents for the Chinese side in the process of the construction, operation and management of the Industrial Park. The Chinese personnel showed high capabilities in comprehension and acceptance. As the Chinese saying goes: "Green comes from blue but it excels it", they are now already "better than their teachers".

As for the education of foreign students, Singapore has attracted a great number of overseas students with its excellent teaching environment and high education quality. The National University of Singapore and Nanyang







Technological University are among the world's best as indicated by the listing of the Top 100 among the world's universities. Especially for the Chinese students, going to Singapore to study means intimacy both in terms of language and customs. They would feel better integrated. As a matter of fact, in this immigrants' country of Singapore, all foreign students, no matter they are Chinese, Indians, Malays or Europeans, can have equal opportunity to lean from other countries their languages, cultures, customs and other newly-emerging things.





Ethnic Integration Promotes Harmonious Development

The Editor: Touring Singapore, one would feel as if he or she is placed in a mini-United Nations. This is reflected in the station names of subways such as China Town and Mini-India. And the passers-by on the street could have come from all over the world.

The Counsellor: In my imagination, Changan (noted by the translator: now Xian), the capital of the Tang Dynasty should be like that. Maybe, you don't know exactly where a person comes from, but everybody lives in content. A prosperous scene presents itself with the integration of multi ethnic cultures. Actually, at the beginning, ethnic groups in Singapore were hostile to each other, and they even went for mutual killing. Thanks firstly to Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and his elite group of the government that we have achieved today's ethnic harmony. Under his leadership, the policies of the

Singaporean government have gone through lots of changes. In the fields of education, the government worked out policies to instruct the younger generation to be inclusive of others' culture and customs. Through studying traditional culture, virtues of modesty and filial piety have been promoted. In the sphere of social management, policy of HDB housing is worth mentioning. In Singapore, some unique policies are enforced by the government to make sure that "every resident must have a dwelling." Everybody can put his or her heart at ease as long as he or she has an abode, a job and a family.

Singapore is a country which stresses ethnic equality all the time. Public resources are distributed according to the proportion of the ethnic groups. In every government-developed house, the residents must comprise Chinese, Indonesians, Malays and people from many other parts of the world. The

various ethnic groups are bound to be in keeping with more or less the proportion of the national population. People enhance their friendly feelings invisibly through daily meetings and conversations, thus they can readily accept each other's cultural divergences. More over, the government makes a point by setting up HDB public houses in downtown areas where land prices are extremely high. By so doing, people of different income groups are enabled to live in the same quarter so that the understanding and integration between different ethnic groups and different social strata are promoted.



Advanced Investment Attraction Notion

The Editor: There are many cooperation projects between China and Singapore in the economic field. It is learned that up to the year of 2014, about 5000 Chinese enterprises had set up their representative offices in Singapore.

The Counsellor: The total size of the Singaporean economy is not big, of which 80 percent is composed of service sector such as trade and transport while the remaining 20 percent features manufacturing such as electronics and chemical industry. The scale of the Singaporean economy is no match for that of China. To stimulate its economic development, Singapore offers "flexibilities" for the access of foreign trade and economy in terms of policy.

In some of the highly focused fields, the Singaporean side would provide preferential policies of partial tax exemption and

reduction. For instance, Shanghai Free Trade Zone follows the institutional "flexibilities" of Singapore. Over the past 20 years since its establishment, formalities for examination and approval have decreased by a big margin in the Suzhou Industrial Park. In the meantime, Singapore serves as a spring board for Chinese enterprises to march into the ASEAN markets. For Chinese enterprises, setting up headquarters in Singapore could facilitate the expansion of their business projects towards other countries. For instance, now that Baidu has established its research centre in Singapore. This would help them expand towards surrounding countries with Singapore as its foothold. Singapore is willing and also hopes to continue its active role in enhancing China-ASEAN relations, upgrade China-ASEAN Free Trade Zone and promote the development of Chinese enterprises in Singapore.

Singapore is suitable for both doing business and living. These factors have attracted many international talents. Singapore would also provide daily necessities for them and their families such as residences and international schools so as to ensure that life is easy, comfortable and happy.









The Daily Growing Sino-Singaporean Cultural Exchanges

The Editor: Singapore and China are close to each other geographically and they also share the Chinese language. Singaporean performing art stars, films and TV plays are popular among the Chinese people. This year marks the 50 anniversary of the founding of Singapore and also 25 anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Chinese Cultural Centre in Singapore will soon be put to use. It is hoped that the future cultural and humanities changes will be more varied, prompt and convenient.

The Counsellor: The hand-over ceremony for the Chinese cultural centre in Singapore has already been completed. Its construction heralds the further promotion of the cultural exchanges between the two countries. In fact, the bilateral cultural exchanges have all along been very close. For example, at the beginning of this lunar year, large-scaled ceremony was held in Singapore. Our deputy prime minister Teo Chee Hean attended the ceremony and representatives of various circles of the two countries including responsible members of the Chinese enterprises in the Suzhou Industrial Park were present on the occasion to promote the

traditional festival of the Chinese descendants and carry forward the traditional Chinese culture.

In April this year, the Singaporean deputy prime minister Teo Chee Hean came to Shanghai to attend the event of the Day of Singapore, and he celebrated together with over 5000 Singaporeans residing in China the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Singapore. In the second half of this year, President Xi Jinping and President Tony Tan Keng Yan will exchange state visits to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. As far as the Singaporean embassy in China is concerned, we are doing as many meaningful things as we can. A case in point is our recent donation of more than RMB 3.7 million yuan together with the Singaporean Chamber of Commerce in China to the China Poverty Alleviation Fund. The amount will be used for supporting the campus reconstruction of the primary schools in the earthquake affected area of the Ludian County of Yunnan Province.

The Singaporean culture bears many Chinese marks. We observe traditional Chinese festivals such as Duanwu (the Dragon-boat) Festival and the Mid-autumn Festival. The Symphonic Windpipe Band of Singapore often plays Chinese musical pieces. Personally I like them very much.



Touring China and Singapore

The Editor: While touring Singapore, the architectures there left me a deep impression with their diversified shapes and profound imaginations. Apart from the Merlion which tourists are all very much familiar with, the Golden Sand Botanic Garden built in the recent years also boasts unique features. More over, what is particularly commendable is that it is erected right in the city centre where every inch of land counts a lot. In recent years, Singapore has stepped up its efforts in tourism promotion, making Singapore all the more a hot tourist attraction.

The Counsellor: Singapore is a tourist city with visitors coming from all over the world. That means we are required to not only accept the integration of multi-cultures, but also understand these cultures. While accepting the use of chopsticks for meals, we should also accept forks and knives for the Western food. Further more, Singapore is a highly efficient country. Our city designs must meet the needs of

various aspects such as housing, commerce, transport and environmental protection. Scientific city planning has brought about first rated living environment, making people's life more and more comfortable and convenient.

The Tourist Bureau of Singapore has set up its office in Beijing which offers detailed introduction to the sights and recreational facilities in Singapore. You are all welcome to Singapore for sightseeing and vacation in leisure. I think in cities there must be certain places for people to relax themselves. That is also why a botanic garden has been erected in the downtown center of Singapore. Singapore is a diversified international city, and its food is rich and colorful, combining the features of Malay, Indian and Chinese food styles and boasting a big array of delicious dishes. Classic food such as Hainan chicken rice, black pepper crab and the Bak Kut Teh are all popular among the tourists.





CHINA SINGAPORE



Although I have just been posted here for 8 months, China is no stranger to me. I like Beijing this international metropolis very much. My grand mother is from Chaoshan of Guangdong. Till this date we still observe the customs left from our ancestors. Like Chinese people, we celebrate the lunar spring Festival and the Mid-autumn festival. I myself like Chinese culture and particularly the Chinese porcelain. My daughter is learning to play Chinese classical musical instrument, the ancient zither guzheng. My son enjoys Chinese food. On the weekends I and my family would go to suburbs to enjoy intimacy with the great nature. My favorite Chinese cities are Suzhou and Hangzhou, as a proverb goes: "In Heaven there is paradise; on earth, Suzhou and Hangzhou." While in Mt. Huangshan of Anhui, it would be a superb experience to sit together with your sweetheart and sip a bottle of wine. So far we have already listed Mogao Grotto in Dunhuang of Gansu, the Longmen Grotto of Luoyang, the Clear and Bright River Garden of Kaifeng, the Shaolin Temple and the Jiuzhaigou of Sichuan as our future destinations of tourism.





The Editor's Summary

Viewing the past and talking about the present, the development of Singapore is just like a scroll of painting being unfolded gently; comparing China with Singapore, the cultural exchanges between the two countries look like a long river dated back to the old times. Chatting together with Ms. Irene Sim, the counsellor of the Singaporean embassy over a cup of tea, our conversation also covered the differences in education of the two countries, shared the great pleasure of travel and tour, and experiences of living in different cities. We jointly looked forward to our future cooperation. We agreed to visit Singapore together and taste the gorgeous food. This editor has already dreamed of the Merlion by this time. It seems as if the Merlion has

surfaced by the bank of the River of Singapore. The curtain of night has fallen, but the fiery city lights reflect people's faces one face after, with some looking quiet and calm, others looking novelty-stricken, and still others looking overwhelmed with admiration. My footsteps follow my heart's yearning. Big as the world is, but it cannot conquer our hearts of quest and pursuit.

SINGAPORE

Climate: Singapore, with a tropical marine climate, has no distinctive four seasons. It is warm and wet there with high air humidity. The annual average temperature of Singapore stands at 24°C - 27°C .

Voltage: The supplied power voltage of Singapore is 220V-240V, 50HZ. Sockets for two poled or three flat and square pinned plugs are in use, so Chinese tourists need to purchase adaptors.

Area Code for International Phone Call: +0065

Traffic Rule: Driving on the left side of the road

Common Phone Numbers: Accident(ordinary)999; accident (maritime) 65-63252488; fire alarm and ambulance:995.

Currency: The Singaporean currency is Singapore Dollar, or SGD for short. Its symbol is SGD(S\$).

Exchange Rate: 1 RMB yuan(RMB) = 0.2188 Singapore Dollar (SGD); 1 US Dollar (USD) = 1.3574 Singapore Dollars (SGD) (April 2015).

Time Difference: No difference at all as Both Singapore and Beijing China are in the same No.8 East Time Zone.

Notice on Hotels: Generally Singaporean hotels provide no tooth brush or tooth paste, nor disposable articles such as slippers.

Customary Taboos: Proper dress is a must when visiting a Singaporean temple or church. No exposing dress is allowed. When visiting an Indian temple or any mosque, one must take off shoes before entering. The same is true when visiting a local family. Meal etiquette: One must use his or her right hand when taking an Indian or Malay meal.

General Notice: Smoking at any public place is strictly forbidden. Offenders shall be fined in case of spitting, littering or climbing over railings or banisters. One should know in particular that bringing-in or eating chewing gum is strictly forbidden, and such offences are also punishable with fines.

Specialties: Gilded orchid is one of the most typical Singaporean products, and it was once used by the Singaporean government as a state gift for foreign leaders. Mementoes in the shape of Merlion, Arabic perfumes, Indian Sari, Nyonya garment and accessories, traditional snacks such as Bak Kut Teh soup, Nyonya cake and durian puffs are all featured souvenirs popular among tourists.

Enjoy Singapore to Your Heart's Content

Singapore is a beautiful garden country situated on the South Sea at the converging point between the Strait of Malacca and the Indian Ocean with Malaysia as its close neighbor. As one of the most important financial, service and shipping centers, Singapore integrates features of both time-honored traditions and a modern metropolis. With the River of Singapore winding through, splendid and elegant Western-styled shops and houses and modern skyscrapers setting off each other, brilliant lightings and flowers decorating this country, Singapore leaves profound impression on each and every tourist. The editors of The Diplomats' particularly recommend the following scenic sights of Singapore in the current issue so as to facilitate your tour of Singapore and the appreciation of its enchanting beauty.



City-Hall —Witness of History •

The City Hall was built in 1929 with an investment of two million dollars made by the government. It was praised as a "National Monument" by the Singapore Constitution Paper at that time. In 1956, Lee Kuan Yew declared the independence of Singapore at the City Hall. With elegant exterior, the Hall has witnessed many an important historic moments of Singapore. No doubt, it serves as a monument of great significance for the country's historic strides towards a self-governing and independent parliamentary republic.



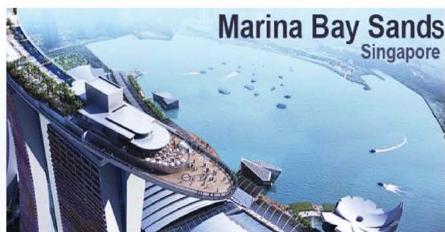


Hotel Marina Bay Sands on the Marina Bay of Singapore —Luxuriously Designed Architectural Wonder

There is a saying: "One should go to Singapore if he/she wants to see novel buildings." Marina Bay Sands on the Marina Bay consists of three 55 storey buildings towering side by side. This hotel, boasting 2560 rooms and suites, is the most luxurious and spectacular one in Singapore.

The Sands Sky Park on top of the hotel is 200 meters tall with its size equal to three football grounds and planted with large number of flowers, plants and trees. Once entering the Sky Park, one feels as if stepping into a botanic garden. The most attractive sight in the Sky Park is its rimless outdoor swimming pool which enables swimmers to fully enjoy the charming scenery in the surroundings while swimming in the pool. Besides, there are also public viewing stands erected in the Sky Park so that tourists can enjoy the Singaporean coastal scenes from an angle of 360 degrees and also the skyscrapers in the Financial Zone on the opposite side.





Gardens by the Bay — A Green and New Horizon

Gardens by the Bay cover an area of 101 hectares as one of the ten largest indoor gardens of the world. It is the most beautiful master garden architectural piece in Singapore. Over 500,000 exotic flowers and plants coming from various continents of the world (except for South America) grow there. The domes of the garden's green houses are a perfect combination of architecture, environmental science and horticulture. The Flower Dome boasts mainly the Mediterranean plants; the Cloud Forest models on the environment of highly elevated tropical areas such as that of South America and Mount Kinabalu of Sabah in Malaysia.

Gardens by the Bay comprise three parts of South, Central and East Gardens with their styles widely different. The South Garden is the largest one of the whole gardens, covering a land area of 54 hectares. It neighbors on the Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort with its featured sights including the Flower Dome, the two glass ecological cold chambers in the Cloud Forest and 18 giant Super Trees among the big tree wood. In the Gardens by the Bay, specially designed light and sound performances enable tourists to experience in person the life-like fairy tales of plants, the free exploration of forest wonders and the boundless joys brought by the Mother Nature as well.

The East Garden, with its green lawns looking like carpets, luxuriant trees and winding paths, is indeed a quiet, peaceful and secluded ambience. One will feel refreshed and gratified by walking in the garden and having the coastal scenes coming into one's eyes. The Central Garden equipped with a three kilometers long aerial corridor links both the South and East Gardens. It commands a very good view of the city of Singapore.





NG AH SIO PORK RIBS SOUP EATING HOUSE





Pork rib soup first created by workers of the Chinese descendant is one of the traditional Singaporean snacks. They prepared the dish by mixing traditional Chinese medicinal herbs together with pork ribs and rice, thus creating such an aromatic, attractive and nutritious food. The Ng Ah Sio Pork Ribs Eating House founded in 1973 is the most famous of its kind throughout Singapore. The easting house boils this cuisine by the use of choice pork ribs, TCM herbs, aromatic dressing and garlic. Compared with the Malaysian style pork ribs soup, pork ribs soup produced by this house is lighter in taste, but still dressed with enough quantity of pepper and garlic, and it also contains deep fried twisted wheat dough plus pork intestine. This pork ribs soup prepared in accordance with the recipe left from the old family is hot and thick, smooth and sweet scenting. One just tastes it once and will never forget about it. It is a must food for all visitors to Singapore.

Adapted from Tips for Touring Singapore



- Family Medicine 家庭医疗
- Internal Medicine 内科
- Surgery 外科
- Endoscopy 内窥镜检查
- Orthopedics 骨科
- Urology 泌尿科
- Dermatology 皮肤科
- Obstetrics / Gynecology 妇产科
- Pediatrics 儿科
- Psychological Counseling 心理治疗

- Dental Services 牙科服务
- Integrative Medicine 综合理疗康复
- Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) 中医
- X-ray X-光
- B Ultrasound B超
- Laboratory Service 医学检验
- Vaccination 疫苗接种
- Minor Surgery 门诊手术
- Pharmacy 药房
- Medical Check-up 健康体检

- Full-time board certified foreign doctors
 全职专业资质的外籍医生
- On-site leading Chinese specialists from 3A hospitals 来自国内三甲医院的著名医疗专家
- Comprehensive health screening services
 多款全方位健康体检套餐
- Direct billing with more than 50 international medical insurance companies 超过50家国内外著名医疗保险公司直付服务
- Services in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Japanese, Arabic and Farsi 流利使用中、英、法、俄、日、阿拉伯、波斯等语言进行医疗服务

Keeping Healthy In Summer

Yang qi is the most exuberant energy in our body during summer. People have a high rate of metabolism in the hot summer. Our body disperses the internal yang qi outward. Keep healthy and positive mind in summer, try not to be too sad or emotional.

Food&Tea

Chinese herbal like Poria cocos, Radix ophiopogonis, Chinese date, Lily, Bamboo leaf are good for health in summer. 1-2 cups of herbal tea will help you to tranquilize and focus your mind. Intestinal infection disease are happened more frequently in summer. Eating healthy is also a very important way to prevent disease. Allium vegetables such as garlic, fragrant flowered garlic, onion, green onion can kill and control the virus, bacteria and fungus which can cause the disease. The most effective one is garlic, you'd better eat them raw.

Sleeping

You should keep your bed clean and tidy in summer to help you sleep well. Keep your bedroom temperature 20-23 °C, relative humidity 50%-70%. Take a nap for 1 hour also a good way to keep concentrate mind for the afternoon working.

Exercise

Don't start morning exercise too early. Please control intensity of the movement during the exercise. Drink some light salt brine or ion drinks instead of cold ice water.

Here is some heatstroke preventive which can help you to keep healthy in summer.

RenDan: for the people who have dizziness and abdominal pain or diarrhea, carsickness and seasickness.

Huoxiangzhengqishui: for the people who have headache, vomit, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

Qingliangyou: for the people who have dizziness and headache or diarrhea after eating cold food.

Chrysanthemum: good to relieve heatstroke.



Dr. Sunny Kim O.M.D

Traditional Chinese Physician

Language: Korean, English,

Chinese

Dr. Kim graduated from the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine with a Master's degree in acupuncture, massage and rehabilitation therapy. She is an expert in the holistic therapy, helped many ambassadors to treat the musculo-skeletal disease, such as neck pain, low back pain; the nervous system diseases, such as headache, insomnia and other diseases by the holistic therapy.





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The Summer Solstice and the Solar Term of Great Heat among the 24 Solar Terms

[The Summer Solstice]

The Summer Solstice, one of the 24 traditional Chinese solar terms, falls upon June 22nd, this year. The Summer Solstice is not only an important solar term, but also a traditional folk festival in China. By the time the Summer Solstice comes, wheat harvest has already started. There has all along been a custom of celebrating bumper harvest and offering memorial service for the ancestors on this day since ancient times, through which people wish for a prosperous year and removal of natural disasters as well. Therefore, the Summer Solstice is observed as a festival and has been incorporated into the ancient immortal—worshipping ceremonies.

The Summer Solstice starts from June 21st (or 22nd) and ends on July 7th (or the 8th) each year. According to Kezun Xiandu (Almanac by the Astronomy Office) Copy, "with the sun reaching the highest point in the sky at midday, most of the sunshine coming to the north and the daytime becoming the longest, the day is thus called the Summer Solstice." After the Summer Solstice, the position of direct sun shining on the earth will move gradually southward and day time of the northern hemisphere will







be gradually shortened. In the folklore, commoners eat the Summer Solstice noodle to observe the day, and people in some localities also eat cakes and buns prepared with newly harvested wheat. This is the so-called Tasting the Fresh.

Till this day, interesting custom of the Summer Solstice festival food is still well preserved in various localities. In Beijing, people generally have "dumplings for the First Fu; noodles for the Second Fu and pancake with scrambled eggs for the Third Fu." (Note by the translator: the three Fu respectively refer to a ten-day hot spell in summer; these three periods combined constitute the whole summer dog days.) In Shandong, people generally eat cool noodles,

popularly known as "water dipped noodles". And there arises the proverb: "Enjoy dumplings for the Winter Solstice while having noodles for the Summer Solstice." In Jiangsu, the popular food for the summer season falls into the following three categories with each composed of "Three Delicacies": edible amaranth (Chinese spinach), broad beans and apricot kernel in terms of delicacies grown on the ground; cherry, plum and toona sinensis (Chinese Toon) in terms of delicacies grown on the trees; and shredded kelp, crucian carp and duck eggs (salted) in terms of water-borne delicacies. However, dumplings are supposed to be eaten for the Summer Solstice in Shanxi.



[The Solar Term of Great Heat]

The Great Heat is the most "fiery" one among all the 24 Chinese Solar Terms. This Solar Term lasts from July 22^{nd} to 24^{th} each year. With the sun reaching celestial longitude $120~^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$, the temperature is the highest with comparatively more thunder showers during this period. People follow folk customs to drink Fu(summer dog days) tea, dry Fu ginger and burn Fu joss sticks.

During the Great Heat period, many areas on the Chinese mainland are often subject to the control of continental high pressure, with clear skies and few clouds, heat wave rolling on the earth and temperatures rising high without dropping. The Great Heat is also the period with most frequent thunder showers for the season. As a proverb goes: "In the east, lots of lightening flash without any drop of rain while in the west one may most

likely be caught in the rain if lightening appears." That is to say in a summer afternoon, rainfall will still be unavailable even if lightening appears in the east, but in case of the lightening in the west, rain will be imminent and people will find it difficult to have a timely escape. So the afternoon thunder shower is often dubbed "northwest rain."

As this period of days is the hottest spell throughout a year, people naturally take bringing down the temperature and combating the summer heat as an important link in their daily life including their food. In many places of Guangdong Province, the custom of "eating herb jelly" (literal translation: wonder grass) is observed for the period of Great Heat. "Wonder grass" is also called "grass jelly" (cool vermicelli grass) and "Mesona"









chinensis" (deity grass). It is an important plant resource serving dual purposes of food and TCM drug. Its names are exactly based on its wonderful heat-alleviating function. Its stems and leaves, after getting dried, can be processed and turned into a sort of cool vermicelli as it is called in Guangdong and the surrounding areas. It can serve as a cooling dessert.

On the occasion of Summer Heat, many localities in Shandong has the custom of "drinking summer lamb", i.e. drinking mutton soup. In Zaozhuang City, many people would go to the local mutton soup restaurants to drink the soup. Whereas, in the coastal area of Zhejiang Province, particularly in Taizhou, many fishing villages observe the folk custom of sending "Great Heat Boats", which is meant to send the "Five Immortals" out to the sea for the purpose of fending off the heat to guarantee people's peace and safety and also ensure their welfare. And the sending-off of "the Great Heat Boats" is accompanied by rich and colorful folklore cultural performances.

During the Great Heat days, people in Putian of Fujian Province have the custom of eating litchi, mutton and fermented glutinous rice, which is called "observing the Great Heat." They store fresh litchi in cold water drawn from wells, and take them out for savoring as soon as the Great Heat arrives. It is most pleasant and nourishing to eat litchi at this time. In Taiwan, the local custom features pine apple eating. Common people think that pineapples taste most delicious at this time. More over, their southern Fujian dialect pronunciation for the pine apple sounds quite similar to that of "wanglai (Note by the translator: the meaning is "Prosperity has reached us"). Therefore, it is regarded as a symbol of praying for peace, prosperity and booming business.

Based on Baidupedia

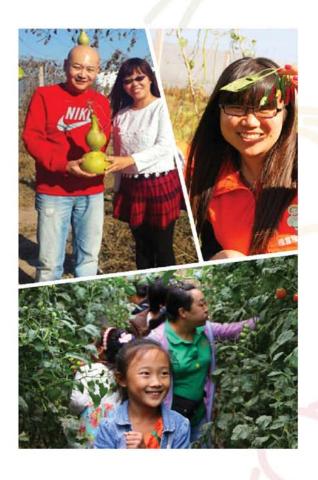




Join in lufulong, Enjoy Healthy Life

Located in Yanqing County, Lufulong Sightseeing Garden covers an area of about 1000 mu (equivalent to 66.7 hectares) of land, which boasts the best natural environment in Beijing both in terms of air, water and soil. The garden once served as one of the vegetable supply bases during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, but now it is used for tourism and growing organic food as well.

Once visiting the garden, you can see how the organic vegetables are planted. Of course you can join us and pick some vegetables by yourself. The Insect Science and Technology Museum is one of the most interesting parts in the garden. You can learn and see the close connection between insects and organic food in the museum. You may also experience testing food safety in this place. Country style parties are often held in this garden and it is particularly good for families. Families will have a great fun during the party. More exciting activities like picnic and camping are right here waiting for you. Our facilities and amenities include outdoor leisure area, children's amusement ground and camping sites, etc. Lufulong Sightseeing Garden is an ideal place for you to be close to nature and stay healthy. We are looking forward to your visits.





The WeChat of this company



The WeChat of the online shop

Hotline: 400-616-5002

Web: www.lufulong.com

Address: 300 meters east of the Miliangtun Village, Juxian town, Yanqing County, Beijing (Baidu Map, Search Lufulong Sightseeing Garden / Lufulong

Guanguang Yuan)













Traveling Delights

E-Mail: e-book@bsbdm.com.cn

Cultural Express [Theatre]





2015 NCPA International Theater Festival Opened

On June 10, 2015 NCPA International Theater Festival scheduled to last for 110 days was officially opened. 96 excellent shows of 24 titles of works will be offered by well known theatrical companies from seven countries and regions including China, the U.K, France and Germany. During the festival, five elaborately designed blocks of plays such as "the Native and Original Shows", "International Specials", "China's Strength", "Integration of East and West "and "Setting off of the New Sails" will be staged successively.

From August 13 to 15, the Israeli Camel Theatric Company will once again come onto the stage of China's NCPA. This time they will bring along with them new works Cyrano de Bergerac to offer a top level theatric feast to Beijing's audience. Cyrano de Bergerac is a piece of love tragedy but with a touch of comedy. Its plot is already widely known. However, the play newly developed by this Israeli company has caused quite

a stir since its premiere. The reason is not only because of the actor being the most famous actor, but also due to the touching play plot which has moved large numbers of audience profoundly.

Following Cyrano de Bergerac, from August 29 to 30, the Golem adapted from the best seller of the same title written by the Austrian author Gustav Meyrink will also be staged at NCPA. The Golem is a folk legendary figure among the Jewish people which means a clay figure with life. This play was created by the British 1927 Theatric Company (based in London). Through the synchronized display of theater performance, music, handmade animation, clay cartoons and images, the play tells of a black science fiction story: In the future where technology and economy are highly developed, when human beings and machines are entangled and interwoven, where should our life be heading for..... (Source: NCPA)

[News]

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Whole City-wide Smoking Control: Beijing's "Strictest Smoking Ban" Effective as of June 1

On June 1, Beijing Municipal Regulation on Smoking Control dubbed "the strictest smoking-ban order" came into effect. From this date on, no smoking will be allowed at any place with a "roof or cover", be they public venues, work sites or public transport, and it is a 100% ban; meanwhile, outdoor public places affiliated to kindergartens, primary schools, junior or senior middle schools, cultural and health rehabilitation units, stadiums, institutions for Children and women's health and children's hospitals, etc. are all listed as No Smoking Places. Smokers violating this regulation shall be fined up to RMB 200 yuan. Those workplaces or public places which dare to set up so-called Smoking Area shall be fined up to 30,000 yuan.

According to the WHO statistics, tobacco each year deprives close to 6 million lives. The black and white picture shows that on May 30th employees of the Bangalore Cancer Hospital of India, holding placards against smoking, staged a demonstration to meet the world's No-Tobacco Day. (Source: xinhua net)









Painting of Life—Walter Disney's Classic Animation Art Exhibition displays the Walter Disney Studio's unique animated cartoon legend through more than 300 exhibits, many of which will be shown to the public for the first time. Through the elaborate art skills of the Disney Studio's creation masters, the exhibition interprets the common humanistic elements of the mankind: friendship, family, courage and love. The masters have made constant breakthroughs and strived to strike a chord at heart with the audience in terms of characters, feelings and the story background. No matter its early stage short cartoon films or long cartoon films screened in its prime times and the continued rejuvenation period, Walter Disney films all underline the importance of resonance.

From the Steamboat Willie featuring Mickey Mouse, the first long animated film the Snow-white and the Lion King to the Frozen, all Disney films have given full play to the vivid description of the constant themes of the humanity by the Disney artists. These works have indeed brought boundless joy to the audience throughout the world.

(Source: China National Museum)

Exhibition Period: 2015.06.30-2015.08.18

Venue: No.4 (North) Exhibition Hall of China National Museum



Diplomatic History Encased in Hutong, No.2 of the Series:

Shijia Hutong

By Deep Breath





One will reach Shijia Hutong (Lane) by cutting across the East and West Sections of Luoquan Lane northbound from Ganmian Lane.

Shijia Hutong is well-known for its abundance of the former residences of celebrities. Nevertheless, most of the courtyard residences greet visitors with closed doors, only except for No. 24 Compound which now serves as the Museum of Shijia Hutong.

One weekend of the early summer of 2015, I strolled in this not too big a courtyard, appreciating the household goods left from the 1970's, the autographs of some masters of Beijing People's Art Theatre, the mimicking of the old time Beijing street hawkers and vendors calling out their wares and also models of those well-arranged quadrangles. Of course, on top of all these, I enjoyed the world of Ling Shuhua.

This courtyard originally comprised a small part of Ling's former residence (with the Shijia Kindergarten as its remaining part). Therefore, her books and paintings should naturally play the role of main character in the museum. While Lin Huiyin, the



Museum of Shijia Hutong

"talent lady" of the old Republic was already widely known, Ling Shuhua almost matched Lin's reputation in 1920's. Lin Huiyin's "Lady's Drawing Room", although made a hit for having many well-known personages, appeared after all about ten years later than the "Big Study of Miss Ling". Celebrities entering the study then included Hu Shi, Ding Xilin, Xu Zhimo, Chen Xiying, Chen Bandin, Qi Baishi and Yao Mangfu. Even the Indian poet Tagore who was on a China tour then was invited to show off his brushworks there. However, the "gossip liking" Chen Xiying who was severely criticized by Lu Xun later on became Ling's husband.

Chen Xiying was defeated in his 1925-1926 debate with the Zhou Brothers (Lu Xun and his brother Zhou Zuoren). He married Ling Shuhua in 1927, and was posted in 1929 as the president of Wuhan University cum the dean of its College of Literature.



In 1946, he took the post of the first permanent representative of the Kuomintang (KMT) government to UNESCO in Paris. He was a typical scholar diplomat. With the founding of new China, Chen Xiying was landed in a awkward state: On the one hand, countries of the Socialist Camp spoke for and supported vigorously the joining of the Chinese mainland, which compelled Chen to "lobby hard high and low" for the "representation" of the Taiwan authorities employing such means as "nearly resorting to kidnap"; on the other hand, the Taiwan authorities had so tight a budget for its diplomatic front that they even found it hard to foot the bill of nearly 1 million US dollars annual membership due (Those members who had their membership due payment in two years' arrears would lose their voting rights), so Chen had to rack his brains and fought hard to survive.

On January 27, 1964, China established its diplomatic relations



with France. Taiwan's "ambassador to France" had to lower its flag and return to Taiwan. Nevertheless, the Taiwan authorities still cabled to Chen and told him to persist and take care of its "embassy" in the name of "representative to the U.N.". That winter was extremely cold and long in France, whereas in the "embassy"



The husband and wife: Chen Xiying and Ling Shuhua.

there was even no stove to provide heating. Chen Xiying was alone in the room, suffering from both cold and hunger. He had to get some snacks at a small restaurant outside. Two years later, on March 12, 1966, the French government demanded that the "embassy" premises be handed over and Chen was taken out coercively by the French police. In struggling to stay, Chen's blood pressure shot up to 250 millimeter of mercury and he fainted right on the spot because of heart failure. The Taiwan

authorities went so far as to blame Chen for his incapability and crisply stopped to pay him the monthly allowance of 300 U.S. dollars. He fell sick and became bed-ridden from then on and died on March 29, 1970 in London at the age of 74.

As a diplomat of the KMT government, Chen Xiying made important contributions to the development of new China. It was in January 1949, Li Siguang and other 10 some scientists of the Geology Institute of the Central Research Academy who were attending an international geology conference in London secretly agreed to remain on China's mainland instead of going to Taiwan. In June, the mainland released its appointment of Li Siguang as a member of the National People's Political Consultative Conference. Taiwan's "foreign ministry" right away ordered its "ambassador to UK" Zheng Tianxi to detain Li Siguang. Chen Xiying also got this information. Maybe it was due to the fact the Li was a good friend of his younger brother-in-law Zhu Kezhen (a renowned meteorologist and geologist), Chen took the risk of making a telephone call to Li through his

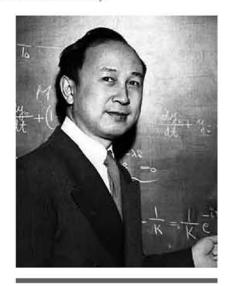


Picture: Premier Zhou Enlai met with Li Siguang.

wife Ling Shuhua. Therefore, Li Siguang transferred from Britain to France just in one day's advance. Later on, through several transfers and detours, Li Siguang finally returned to Beijing on May 6, 1950.

As of 1956, under the direction of Li Siguang, China's petroleum survey and exploration department successively discovered oilfields such as Daqing, Shengli, Dagang, North China and Jianghan within a short period of time, thus thoroughly shaking off the label of "China's Petroleum Deficiency" and making immortal merits for China's petroleum industry.

At the same time, another heavy-weight scientist of equal fame as Li Siguang also just returned from the U.S. It was no other than Qian Xuesen, one of the founders of China's "Two Bombs (A & H) and One Satellite" and also "Father of China's Aerospace Industry". Qian's return to



Li Siguang

the motherland was likewise attributable to the efforts of two renowned diplomats.

In October 1949, Qian Xuesen served as the director of the Jet Propulsion Center of California Institute of Technology. When he learned of the founding of new China, he immediately decided to come back to serve China. At that time McCarthyism prevailed throughout the U.S where anti-communist and xenophobia fervor surged all over the country. Qian was suspected of being

a communist and the U.S. military revoked his certificate for participating in confidential research. In 1950, while leaving the U.S., Qian was intercepted and thrown into the prison. The U.S. Custom confiscated his luggage including 800 kg of books and notebooks. When the news spread out, the Chinese government issued an open statement, condemning the U.S. imprisonment of Qian Xuesen in violation of his personal will. In April 1954, when the U.S., UK, China, the Soviet Union and France held an international conference in Geneva to discuss and solve the Korean issue and the restoration of peace in Indochina, Zhou Enlai, the head of the Chinese delegation seized on the opportunity shrewdly to have dialogue with the U.S. and he gave instruction in person to Wang Bingnan, the secretary general of the Chinese delegation.

Wang Bingnan was a veteran diplomat. He was heavily involved as an important aide to Zhou Enlai in dealing with the "Xian Incident". He served as the secretary to Mao Zedong during the War of Resistance against the Japanese Aggression and for a long time a responsible member of CPC's Foreign Affairs Leading Group. After the founding of PRC, he assisted Zhou Enlai in preparations of the establishment of the headquarters of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. And he served successively as the head of the Ministry's General Office, assistant foreign minister, Chinese ambassador to Poland and vice foreign minister. From 1954 to 1964, in the absence of diplomatic relations between China and U.S., Wang Bingnan, first at the Geneva Conference and then in the capacity of the Chinese ambassador to Poland, held as the first representative of new China more than 120 formal meetings and ambassadorial talks with the U.S.

representative on the bilateral issues. With his unremitting efforts and also the release of over 10 American flyers captured during the Korean War by the Chinese side as an exchange condition, China made the U.S. agree to let Qian Xuesen come back to China. On October 1, 1955, Qian Xuesen and





Picture above: Wang Bingnan (the third person from Left) at talks with the former U.S. Ambassador to Poland (the second person from right).

Picture below: Qiao Guanhua(the first person from Left), Deng Xiaoping talked with Dr. Henry Kissinger.

his family returned to the warm embrace of the motherland. Just at the critical moment when the Chinese side made last efforts for the return of Qian's family, another diplomat Qiao Guanhua joined the rank of negotiation in the capacity of deputy director general of the Guiding Group for the Sino-American Talks.

Qiao Guanhua was a figure not to be omitted in the diplomatic history of new China: At the "historic moment" of November 15, 1971, after the resumption of China's legitimate seat in the U.N., he led the Chinese delegation to attend the 26th U.N. Conference with graceful bearing for the first time in new China, he laughed heartily with head held high when a reporter asked him a question, and his sardonic laughter, so merry and lively and full of self-pride, "shocked the glass of the congress building"; or he talked and argued



No. 51 Compound of Shijia Hutong

eloquently with the U.S. Secretary of State while eating frozen prawns at a diplomatic cocktail; or he challenged and contested with Dr. Henry Kissinger during Nixon's visit to China and at the moment of the ice-breaking of the Sino-U.S. relations. At these moments or on these occasions, Qiao Guanhua all displayed his talent, demeanor and vision which became well-known throughout the world.

Qiao Guanhua was a man full of sentiments and his steps followed his heart. When he was over 60 years old, he tied knot with the lady celebrity Zhang Hanzhi who was much younger than him. This romance became people's hot topic at a time. No.51 not far away from the west opening of Shijia Hutong served as their residence and love nest. However, the courtyard is now empty with nobody around. Due to certain reasons, Qiao Guanhua failed to occupy a space at the museum of the lane, whereas Wang Bingnan is ceremoniously introduced as one of the hutong's celebrities. No.33, another quadrangle just obliquely across the hutong eastward from the museum is exactly the former residence of Wang Bingnan.

Photos from: Xinhua net



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