

# PEKING UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014 | Issue 27

## **Dominique de Villepin**

Asia's Leading Role  
in a Global Financial Reform

P18

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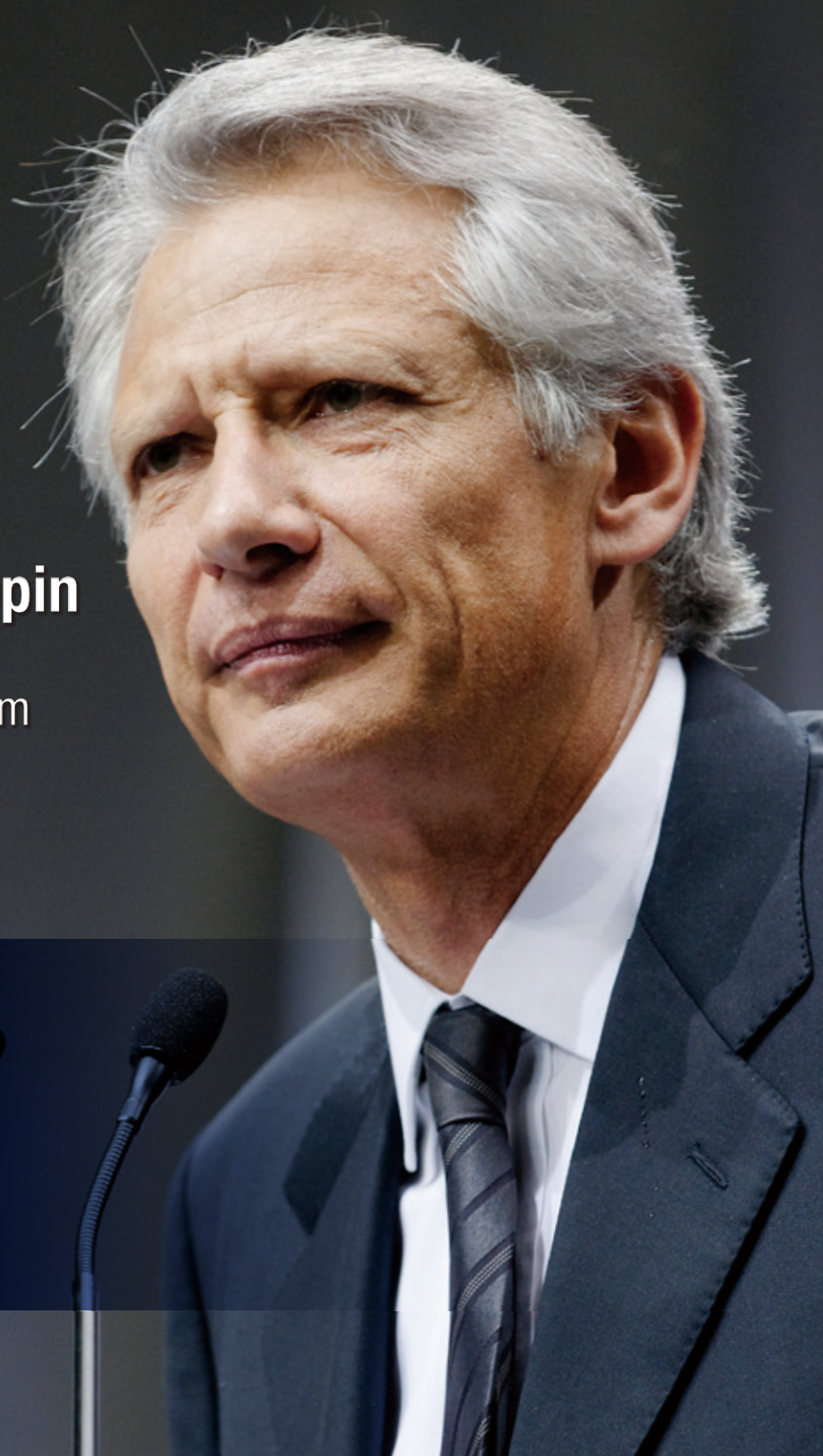
**Xi Jinping**  
Visited Peking University  
on Chinese Youth Day

14

**Celso Lafer**  
Strengthen Ties  
in Scientific Collaboration

21

**Tan Chorh Chuan**  
The Importance of  
a University's Culture





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# CONTENTS

## 02 Spotlight

A Spiritual Feast for Science: Brazil-China Scientific Symposium.....	02
President Xi Jinping Visited Peking University on Chinese Youth Day .....	04
The Future of the Research University in the Age of Globalization —Innovations in Talent Cultivation .....	06
Launch of Yenching Academy .....	07

## 08 Academic

PKU Helded Forum Themed “China and Egypt—the Global Relationship and the Road of Development” in Cairo, Egypt.....	08
NYU’s Leading Psychologists Visited Peking University Sixth Hospital .....	08
PKU Wins Awards in the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Geneva’s International Exhibition of Inventions ....	09
<i>Nature</i> : High-Throughput Screening of a CRISPR/Cas9 Library for Functional Genomics in Human Cells .....	09
PKU Researcher Discovered Unique Pair of Hidden Black Holes .....	10
PKU Research Team Led by Prof. Chen Xing and Prof. Huang Yanyi Developed New Live-Cell Imaging Method .....	11
PKU Professor Awarded 2013 Okawa Foundation Research Grant .....	12
Achievements in Research on Non-CO <sub>2</sub> : Greenhouse Gases Published by <i>ES&amp;T</i> ....	12
Prof. Xiao Ruiping Appointed Associate Editor of <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> .....	13

## 14 People

Celso Lafer: Strengthen Ties in Scientific Collaboration.....	14
Dr. Marc Lanteigne: A China Hand from the West .....	15
Dr. Zhang Chao: Researching on “Smart Tags” .....	17

## 18 Voice

Dominique de Villepin: Asia’s Leading Role in a Global Financial Reform.....	18
On Cross Cultural Exchanges between Universities: Interview with the Vice Principal International of University of Edinburgh.....	20
Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan: The Importance of a University’s Culture.....	21
On Research and International Partnership: Interview with the Vice President of UBC .....	23
Leading to Greater Heights: President of HKU Prof. Peter Mathieson .....	25

## 26 International Collaboration

Higher Education Planning in Asia Conference 2014 held at PKU .....	26
PKU-Initiated International Consortium of Chinese Studies Set Sail.....	26
PKU Signed Agreement with the University of Melbourne on Collaboration in Psychiatry Research and Training.....	27

## 28 Campus

International Youth Classical Drama Festival .....	28
2014 Peking University Top Ten Singers .....	29
Producers of “A Bite of China” Visit Peking University .....	30
Campus Dramas: “Pure Literature in Film Era” .....	31
Guardian Angels of PKU’s Stray Cats .....	33
Turning the Wheel of Seasons: The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Show by the PKU Dance Sport Association.....	35

## 37 Column

At the Forefront of News: “Newsletter” Editor-in-Chief, Heng Kang Wei.....	37
Hugging for Sino-Japanese Friendship: Founded by Japanese Exchange Students of Peking University.....	38
My Experience at Waseda University: The Same Japan, the Different Feelings .....	39

## 41 Giving

Establishment of Tang Lixin Educational Fund.....	41
Hong Kong Bai Xian Educational Fund Donated to Yenching Academy.....	41

## A Spiritual Feast for Science: Brazil-China Scientific Symposium

Yuan Yating

From April 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, the Brazil-China Scientific Symposium was successfully held at Yingjie Exchange Center of PKU. The symposium saw the attendance of over 50 scientific elites from Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, China Agricultural University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo State University, and University of Campinas. The symposium, sponsored by both the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) and Peking University (PKU), mainly focused on expanding the relationship between researchers from the state of São Paulo and researchers from several academic and research institutions in China, for the purpose of promoting joint studies that could benefit the people of both countries.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Professor Wang Enge, President of Peking University, attended the opening ceremony, together with Professor Celso Lafer, President of FAPESP, Valdemar Carneiro Leão, Brazilian Ambassador to China, and Fang Jun, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education of China. Their speeches focused on the significant role of scientific researches in the ever-changing world today. They also touched on the brilliant prospect of scientific collaboration between the two countries. Both Professor Wang Enge and Professor Celso Lafer expressed their conviction that in such a symposium, where ideas have the opportunity to clash and ignite, it would further expand understanding among these outstanding



researchers, deepening international research cooperation.

The symposium consisted of several parallel sessions, and the topics ranging from materials, nano-technology, medical science to life sciences. In each session, the researchers delivered speeches on their latest study, and participated in discussions with other attendees subsequently.

### Business and Agriculture

Professor Paulo Araújo, from the Luiz de Queiroz Agricultural College in Brazil, led the session in the field of agricultural and applied economics. His sharing started with a short summary of the Brazilian economy, in particular the increasingly developing models of agribusiness in Brazil.

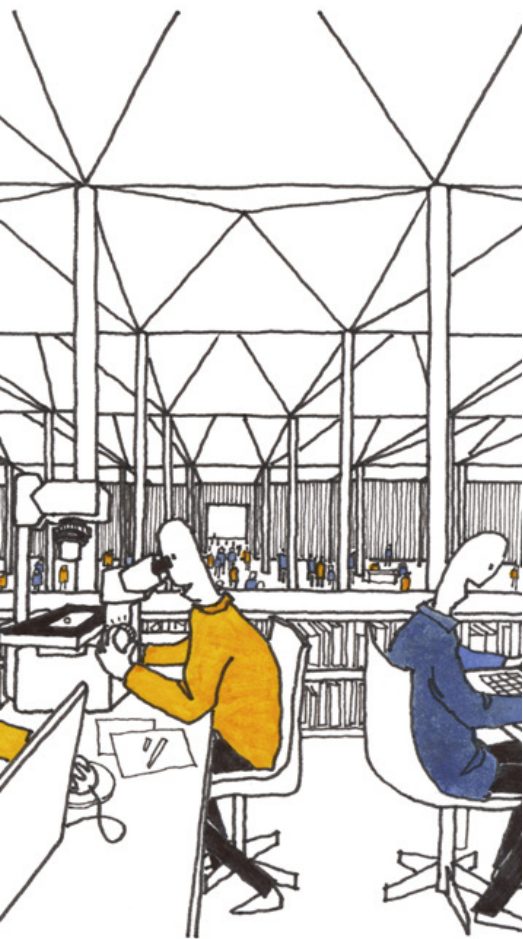
During the session, comments were

made on the investments of human capital and the development theory, including that of the Solow model. Several examples of technological changes in agriculture, and estimates of TFP and social returns to agricultural research and extensions were also raised. Professor Paulo Araújo stressed the importance of the coordination of capital and agriculture, which can make the agricultural production more efficient.

The session closed with ending remarks that focused on the development of future projects, and mutual benefits concerning technology and agricultural economy.

### Water Sources in Forest Requires Attention

Mountainous areas are important for both forestry and providing water supply to dry landlocked regions that



have a high erosion risk and water shortage. Large-scale afforestation designed mainly for erosion control was implemented during the last decade in arid regions of north and northwestern China. But dense forests may result in negative impacts on the water and

natural regeneration due to a strict logging ban policy.

Based on this, Professor Wang Yanhui and his group managed to develop a practical approach for multi-functional forest (MFF) management, with the water aspect taken into consideration. They integrated existing knowledge and experiences and conceived an "ideal" MFF structure and its key parameters.

Moreover, a decision-making process for management planning was recommended through the following 5 steps:

- 1) Investigating the site's quality
- 2) Identifying the site-specific main forest functions
- 3) Quantifying the structure
- 4) Diagnosing the structure by comparing with the "ideal" one
- 5) Arranging the functions/structure-oriented management measures

In this way, as they presented, water supply and forest development can be balanced in the process of creating a harmonious environment.

### Plants: Play a Key Role in Climate Changes

The requirement for food and renewable energy production on the planet will demand a massive increase in plant biomass by 2040. From this perspective, understanding how plants function will be essential for designing future strategies of plant bioengineer-

ing in the future scenario of climatic changes.

For many years, Professor Marcos Buckeridge has been working on how to integrate the knowledge of physical, molecular and biochemical features of plants to explain their behaviors. In addition, his group studied the integrative responses of crop species to the elevation of atmospheric carbon dioxide, temperature and drought, which is helpful to forecast plant behavior under changing environmental conditions.

In his presentation, he used sugarcane as a case study, showing results on the whole plant physiology-metabolism-transcription integration under environmental stresses such as elevated carbon dioxide level and drought.

The Brazil-China scientific symposium is the first event that FAPESP chose to hold in China. At the end of the symposium, there is a consolidated consensus that it was a grand meeting for minds. It is expected that the spirit of exploring, individual thinking and objective commenting exhibited in the symposium will spread to other areas of cooperation between the two countries, and lead us to a brighter future. 🍷

### 🍷 São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)

Established in 1962, the São Paulo Science Foundation (FAPESP) is among Brazil's most important science and technology research-sponsoring agencies. Maintained by the transfer of 1% of the state's total tax revenue, the Foundation operates directly with the scientific community of São Paulo State in all fields, funding research proposals selected on the basis peer review, a methodology that utilizes opinions issued by Brazilian and foreign researchers as the basis for project financing decisions.



Professor Celso Lafer (left), President Wang Enge (middle) and Ambassador Valdemar Carneiro Leão (right)

# President Xi Jinping Visits Peking University on Chinese Youth Day

Yang Linhan

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, which marks the Youth Day in China, Xi Jinping, President of China, visited Peking University. In his speech, he emphasized that youth today must work hard and strive for virtues. The virtues that President Xi emphasized include the ability to discern truth and false, honesty and sincerity. Armed with these values, President Xi hopes the youth today can spearhead the effort to spread these values to the rest of the society. This would allow them to seek their enrichment and role in society, and lead the way for the realization for the Chinese dream.

## A Visit to the School of Humanities at PKU

With the famous Weimin Lake and ancient Boya Tower, Yanyuan, the campus of Peking University, is stunningly beautiful in the early spring, painting a wonderful background for trees and flowers. At 9 in the morning, President Xi Jinping arrived at the campus, and was welcomed by Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the PKU Council, and Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU. They first arrived at the College of Humanities, and visited an achievement exhibition of the humanities and social sciences of PKU. The exhibition displayed significant academic achievements in the fields of literature, history, philosophy and archaeology, as well as important literatures in libraries of PKU. President Xi Jinping inquired in detail about the development of the disciplines of humanities and social sciences from Professors Ma Keyao and Yuan Xingpei. Presi-

dent Xi gave high praises for PKU's fruitful results in the aspect of the inheritance and spread of Chinese traditional culture.

On the northern side of the exhibition hall lies a quiet yard, from where famous philosopher Tang Yijie, at the age of 87, came out to welcome President Xi Jinping. The President walked quickly towards him and had a cordial conversation with professor Tang Yijie, during which professor Tang introduced his current work, the compilation of a series of books related to the studies of Chinese ancient civilization Ruzang. President Xi recognized the hardship and the difficulties in undertaking such a project, and praised his spirit of pursuing scholarly work. Addressing the teachers and students, President Xi indicated that philosophy, history and literature are a necessity to propel China's reform. In doing literary and historical research, the focus should be on people's spiritual world, a positive reaction towards society, and a heart to help people better know about themselves and the world. This is the kind of social responsibilities that today's academic researchers must shoulder.

## A Talk with Fellow of Prof. Xie Xiaoliang in BIOPIC

Founded in 2010, the Biodynamic Optical Imaging Center (BIOPIC) utilizes the most advanced bio-imaging and gene sequencing technologies to conduct research in the field of life science and basic medicine. President Xi visited the center and was given a presentation on the work of the cen-

ter. President Xi then enquired about the new technical researches on fetal genetic disease screening and early diagnosis of cancer. President Xi encouraged the researchers to continue with their efforts and challenge themselves to come up with innovative idea. Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Science, and visiting Professor to the Center Xie Xiaoliang told President Xi that he determined to return homeland to conduct full-time research, and brought back his own research team so as to appeal to more excellent talents to return to China. President Xi remarked that at this point of development process, China requires a lot of talented researchers to engine its progress. The Chinese government will continue to distribute the best resources in order to develop their abilities, helping them to realize their dreams while giving them the opportunity to serve the nation.

## Youth Poetry Recital at the Jingyuan Courtyard

Leaving the laboratory, President Xi then proceeded to the Jingyuan Courtyard, where a poetry recital is being held in commemoration of the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the May Fourth Movement, which was led by Peking University students in 1919. At the sight of the President, teachers and students gave Xi warm welcome with applause. Dressed in school uniforms that students wore in 1919, student representatives recited two pieces of poetry titled *Listen to Youth* and *Qingyuan Chun Changsha*, in which the latter one was written by Chairman Mao Zedong. The recital was accompanied by a soft violin melody. President Xi enjoyed the engaging recitation, and interacted with the participating teachers and students, acclaiming their confident reciting with strong historical responsibilities and pride. President Xi expressed his hope that they can keep up with the times, and continue to create original and beautiful poems.

It is very important to pay special attention to developing values in this critical period.



President Xi (Right) Talking with Students and Teachers at the Jingyuan Courtyard

### President Xi's Speech at the Yingjie Exchange Center

At 10:40 a.m., President Xi arrived at the Yingjie Exchange Center to participate in a forum with selected teachers and students. The university leaders and representatives of teachers and students first delivered their speeches, to which President Xi listened, took notes, and clarified about information.

Having heard of the comments made by PKU teachers and students, President Xi then took to the stage to deliver his speech. He pointed out that contemporary university students are reliable, valuable and capable. Each generation has their own unique opportunities and challenges, and they should plan their life in order to write their history under current conditions. Youth is the most sensitive barometer of times, to whom bestows the responsibility of time, and to whom belongs to the glory of time. The best commemoration to the May Fourth Movement for youth today is to forge ahead to make contributions and to shoulder the historical mission of development of the country.

President Xi also stressed that the role which youth play in shaping the future of society as a whole, es-

pecially when youth is in the period of formation and establishment of values. President Xi emphasized, "Therefore it is very important to pay special attention to developing values in this critical period. It's like wearing clothes or buttoning up. If the first button is wrong, the rest of the buttons will be wrong. Life needs to be buttoned up right from the start. Core values aren't formed in a day. We should insist on doing from easy to difficult and from near to far, in order to turn the requirements of the core values into daily code of conduct and consciously pursued belief. Young people should nurture socialist core values, discernment and probity, make efforts to attain true knowledge, strengthen moral cultivation, pay attention to moral practice, become good at distinguishing right and wrong, and be good at making decisive choice. And they need to work in a down-to-earth manner and to build themselves the steadfast persons, who are determined to serve the country, serve the people, and exert themselves to do some real things. In a word, their knowledge and action should go hand in hand."

President Xi also stressed that

the government had made building world-class universities as one of its strategic goals. The government will continue to deepen reforms in the education system. Furthermore, he stressed that the world-class universities must have Chinese characteristics. Therefore, governments at all levels should attach great importance to the work of colleges and universities, and always be concerned with student development. "There is a must to comprehensively deepen reform, build a fair and just social environment, and constantly arouse the youth's vitality and creativity. We should strengthen service system construction of employment and innovation, support students to take the first step to society. Teachers bear the most solemn and sacred mission, and they need to keep in mind the mission of teaching, and guide students with personal charisma."

The speech in the forum caused a strong resonance among teachers and students, who expressed that they will endeavor to live up to the President's expectation.

Leaving Peking University, President Xi was surrounded by enthusiastic teachers and students rushed to greet him. The youth vitality, like fire, surged at the PKU campus in spring. 🍀

# The Future of the Research University in the Age of Globalization

—Innovations in Talent Cultivation

Heng Kang Wei

An International Forum with the theme of “the Future of the Research University in the Age of Globalization—Innovations in Talent Cultivation” was held at Peking University on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Yingjie Exchange Center. The forum attracted more than 30 Presidents and Vice Presidents from various universities across the globe.

Representatives of 46 universities came from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Mexico, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Notable attendees from Mainland China include scholars from Peking University, Fudan University, Renmin University of China, Beijing Normal University, Zhejiang University, Wuhan University and Zhongshan University.

Renowned overseas universities including Stanford University, Chicago University, University of California, Berkeley, London School of Economics, Free University of Berlin, Tokyo

University, National University of Singapore, Melbourne University, Hong Kong University and Taiwan University also sent representatives to attend the Forum.


During the opening ceremony of the Forum, Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU, expressed his warmest welcome to the representatives of the universities. In his speech, Professor Wang emphasized the importance of interaction and communication between universities from all over the world. Strengthening ties and promoting cooperation between universities from different countries is fundamental towards cultivating high quality talents with a truly global perspective, which is also a key goal for any institute of higher learning.

Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, was the host of the forum. The representatives from various universities then discussed under 3 main topics, namely “Visions and Strategies: New Paths for Innovations in Talent Cultivation”, “Institutions and Techniques: New Dimensions of Innovations in

Talent Cultivation” and “International Collaboration: New Modes for Innovations in Talent Cultivation”.

The first session was hosted by Professor Ronald Gronsky, Special Faculty Assistant to the Chancellor for International Relations, University of California Berkeley. During the session, Professor Henry Yang, President of University of California Santa Barbara, Professor Klaus Beck, Vice President of Free University of Berlin, Professor Ian Solomon, Vice President of University of Chicago, and Professor John Hepburn, Vice President of University of British Columbia shared their experience in talent cultivation respectively, and suggested innovative measures with a global outlook.

During the second session with the topic of “Institutions and Techniques: New Dimensions of Innovations in Talent Cultivation”, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of the National University of Singapore summarised and shared with the attendees of the lessons he had learned from the institutional reforms conducted by NUS. The last session with the topic of “International Collaboration: New Modes for Innovations in Talent Cultivation” was hosted by Professor Steve Hillier, Vice President of the University of Edinburgh. During this session, Professor Stuart Corbridge, Provost and Executive Vice President of the London School of Economics and Political Science, evaluated how technological improvements have brought about new standards and methods in the cooperation between universities of different countries. At the end of the forum, representatives from the different universities also took the opportunity to discuss the ways to further enhance interaction between schools and the ways to provide students with exposure to other cultures.

Overall, the forum provided an important platform for universities all over the world to reflect upon past practices and the outlook for new and innovative methods, and reform for talent cultivation. 





# Launch of Yenching Academy

Heng Kang Wei

Peking University will be offering a new Master program in Chinese Studies, aimed at cultivating talents with an overall knowledge and understanding of China, with the launch of Yenching Academy. The Master program will take advantage of the quality resources in academic areas of humanities and social sciences of PKU.

On the Afternoon of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the ceremony marking the launch of Yenching Academy was officially held at Yingjie Exchange Center of PKU. The ceremony was preceded by the International Forum on Cultivating Innovative Talents.

The launching ceremony saw the attendance of representatives and delegations from forty five colleges and universities all over the world, including Stanford University, the University of Chicago, the London School of Economics and Political Science, National University of Singapore, Fudan University, etc. In addition, renowned experts and scholars in the fields of humanities and social sciences from Peking University were also present. Joining them also included alumni representatives and other figures from different sectors of the community.

During the ceremony, Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU, delivered the opening address, in which he remarked that the academy is the “most ambitious academic initiative PKU has launched since the turn of the new century”. It is an innovative research center seeks to cultivate world leaders who will make a difference in the world. Its mission is to develop Chinese Studies in global and interdisciplinary contexts and to advance innovation in basic research while tackle with the most challenging questions facing the world today.

Professor Liu Wei, Executive Vice President of PKU, then introduced the Yenching Academy to all the attendees. After that, Vice President Li Yansong read a con-



gratulatory letter from Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations. Representing the Yenching Academy Advisory Board, Presidents of the University of California at San Babara and Nankai University then shared their visions for Yenching Academy.

After the end of the addresses, the official inauguration ceremony of Yenching Academy took place. Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of the PKU Council, President Wang Enge, Alumni representative, donors and a representative of the Presidents of the other universities in attendance walked on the stage and unveiled the logo of the Academy. The guests were then treated by a performance of classical Chinese and Western music performed by the performance art societies of PKU and student representatives from Stanford University, and led by Professor Cai Jindong, a visiting scholar to PKU from Stanford University.

With the launch of the Yenching Academy, Peking University hopes to establish a world leading academy in the field of China Studies. Yenching Academy will advocate interdisciplinary research, with the focus of providing world-class education in the humanities and social sciences that draws from pluralistic perspectives as its core research and educational goal. Under the context of globalization, the Yenching Academy is designed to gather a truly globalized team of leading academics and students, who will be part of this world-leading center of Chinese study.

The faculty consists of a collection of illustrious scholars—20 internationally reputed scholars, 30 influential PKU scholars

and 20 visiting senior fellows with worldwide recognition. With the diversity of academic backgrounds, research expertise and experience, they will provide a comprehensive and unique perspective to the students.

The 6 key component of the syllabus of Yenching Academy will be as followed: “Philosophy and Religion”, “Literature and Culture”, “History and Archaeology”, “Public Policy and International Relations”, “Economics and Management”, and “Law and Institutions”. This seeks to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of China and the Chinese society, including issues and problems surrounding the country in its development.

The students will earn a master's degree in Chinese Studies through the one-year program. The first batch of 100 students will be enrolled in the autumn semester of 2015. This will include 65 overseas students, including those from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. The remaining 35 will come from Chinese mainland. Peking University will provide Yenching Academy graduate students with full scholarships. In addition, Yenching Academy will be a residential college where students and faculty members will be provided with more opportunity for discussion and interaction. Beyond academic resources, the Yenching Academy is also equipped with a dedicated Career Development and Alumni Service Office. This will guide students in career planning, training and placement after the one-year program at Yenching. This will also help scholars integrate into the network of PKU alumni around the globe. ▽

## PKU Held Forum Themed “China and Egypt — the Global Relationship and the Road of Development” in Cairo, Egypt

Cui Yahui

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a forum under the theme of “China and Egypt—the Global Relationship and the Road of Development”, co-organized by Peking University and Cairo University, was held in Cairo, Egypt. More than fifty scholars from renowned universities including Peking University, American University in Cairo and Cairo University participated in the forum.

Lisa Anderson, President of The American University in Cairo (AUC), Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, and Laila El-Baradei, Acting Dean of the

School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches, in which they expressed their hope of a strengthened bilateral cooperation.

The forum consisted of three sessions, which are under the topics of “China’s foreign policy in the Middle East and Africa”, “Development in China and Egypt”, and “The Future of China-Egypt relations”.

During the first session, Hua Liming, Former Ambassador of China to Iran, the UAE and the Netherlands, Ahmed Ismail Abdel Moaty, Director of Asian Region,

Egypt Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor Li Anshan, Director of African Center, PKU, all shared their opinions towards China’s foreign policy in the Middle East and Africa.

The second session consisted of the discussions among relevant attendees on China’s economic reform and educational system reform, and the development model of Egypt. Professor Mustapha Kamel Al-Sayyid from Cairo University and American University in Cairo also made comments on the topic.

For the third session, Professor Magda Saleh, Director of Asia Research Center in Cairo University, and Professor Wu Bingbing, Director of Arabian and Islam Culture Research Center, PKU, both delivered speeches about their views on the future of China-Egypt relations.

Attendees hoped to strengthen co-research of scholars from both universities and conduct in-depth discussion on the experience of China’s economic development, cooperation model between China and other African countries, and China’s support for Egyptian agriculture. ▾



## NYU’s Leading Psychologists Visited Peking University Sixth Hospital

Cui Yahui

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, under the invitation of Professor Lu Lin, Director of Peking University Sixth Hospital, Professor Elizabeth A. Phelps from the Department of Psy-

chology, New York University visited Peking University Sixth Hospital. She delivered an academic report at the Yingkui Hall at the hospital.

The lecture was hosted by Profes-

sor Lu Lin, who first expressed his appreciation to the visit of Professor Phelps. Professor Lu Lin also gave a brief introduction of Professor Phelps’s academic experience and

achievements.

Professor Phelps is a renowned expert in fields of psychology and neuroscience. Obtained her PhD in psychology at Princeton University in 1989, she is currently the Silver professor of New York University. She was elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012, and was also awarded the James S. McDonnell Foundation Centennial Fellowship at the same year. In addition, she serves as the editor of the famous psychology magazine *Emotion*.

Professor Phelps presented a detailed explanation of the important



functions of amygdala, which plays an important role in the acquirement,

storage and expression of the fear memory. She also vividly depicted her research on fear learning, and its roles and implications in the human society. To find better ways to change fear memory, Professor Phelps' research team has conducted deeper exploration. She stressed the importance of targeting consolidation and predicted that ethological intervention means may be adopted by clinicians in the future to change post traumatic stress disorder and its fear memory through strengthening the inhibitory signals sent from the ventromedial prefrontal cortex to the amygdala. ▶

## PKU Wins Awards in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Geneva's International Exhibition of Inventions

Gao Juyi

Organized and recommended by the Office of Science & Technology, PKU, four inventions of the School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science were exhibited at the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, which took place from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. These inventions won two Gold Medals and two Silver Medals on the exhibition, which are listed as follows:

(1) Gold Medal: Micro Triboelectric Generator

Principal Investigator: Professor Zhang Haixia; Exhibitors: Meng Bo, Han Mengdi, Zhu Fuyun.

(2) Gold Medal: New All Fiber SUNX

of Inclinator for Oil Well

Principal Investigator: Professor Wang Ziyu; Exhibitors: Wang Xinyue, Wang Ziyu, Wang Qin.

(3) Silver Medal: Mobile Digital System for Early Warning of Health Risks

Principal Investigator: Assistant Professor Huang Anpeng; Exhibitors: Chen Wen, Chen cao.

(4) Silver Medal: New Generation of Intelligent Monitoring System for Helping the Elder and the Disabled

Principal Investigator: Professor Liu Hong; Exhibitor: Sun Yike.

Starting from 1972, the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva is recognized as one of the world's most



important exhibition for inventions due to its large scale and long history. This time the exhibition saw 790 exhibitors from 45 countries presenting more than 1000 pieces of inventions, covering research results and new products which aim to address difficulties in areas such as environmental protection, energy, security and transportation. ▶

## Nature: High-Throughput Screening of a CRISPR/Cas9 Library for Functional Genomics in Human Cells

Gao Juyi

The uncovering of the function of a certain gene and its coding protein in specific physiologi-

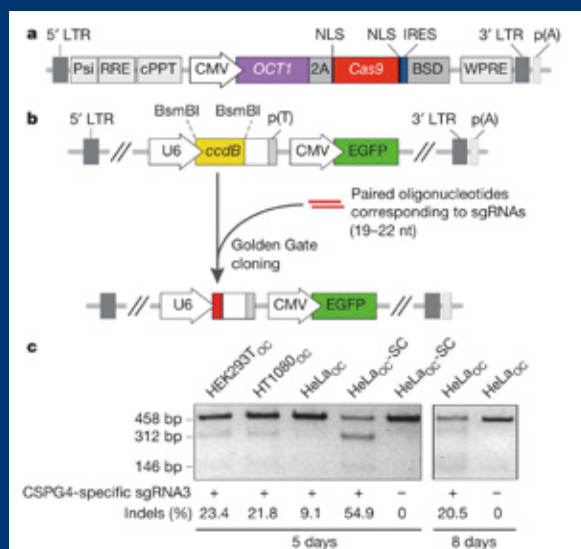
cal, pathological or developmental processes plays an important role in studying biology and disease. Tar-

geted genetic editing technologies are powerful tools for the study. While RNA interference (RNAi) has

been developed and widely used in genetic studies of mammalian cells, it does have certain limitations—in particular, the RNAi-based down regulation of a particular gene is not always sufficient to result in the phenotypic change of interest. On the other hand, recent progress in genomic editing, such as ZFN (zinc finger nuclease), TALENs (transcription activator-like effector nucleases) and the CRISPR/Cas (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats/CRISPR associated) system, has markedly changed the way researchers manipulate individual genes. In contrast to the rapid development of toolkits to manipulate individual genes, large-scale screening methods based on the complete loss of gene expression are only now beginning to be developed.

Hence, based on the type II CRISPR/Cas system, the team led by Professor Wei Wensheng, from the College of Life Sciences, Peking University, established a genome-scale screening method which consists of

a focused CRISPR/Cas-based (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats/CRISPR-associated) lentiviral library in human cells, and a method of gene identification based on functional screening and high-throughput sequencing analysis. Using knockout library screens, the host genes essential for the intoxication of cells by anthrax and diphtheria toxins are successfully identified, which were confirmed by functional validation. The broad application of this powerful genetic screening strategy will not only facilitate the rapid identification of genes important for bacterial toxicity but will also enable the discovery of genes that participate in other biological processes. The work was cooperated with Professor Huang Yanyi, from the Peking University Biodynamic Optical Imaging



Center, and was published online in *Nature* on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. PhD candidates Zhou Yuexin, Zhu Shiyu, Cai Changzu tie for the first authors. The research is supported by grants from the National Basic Research Program of China, the National Science Foundation of China, and the Peking University-Tsinghua University Joint Center for Life Sciences.

## PKU Researcher Discovered Unique Pair of Hidden Black Holes

Yu So-jin

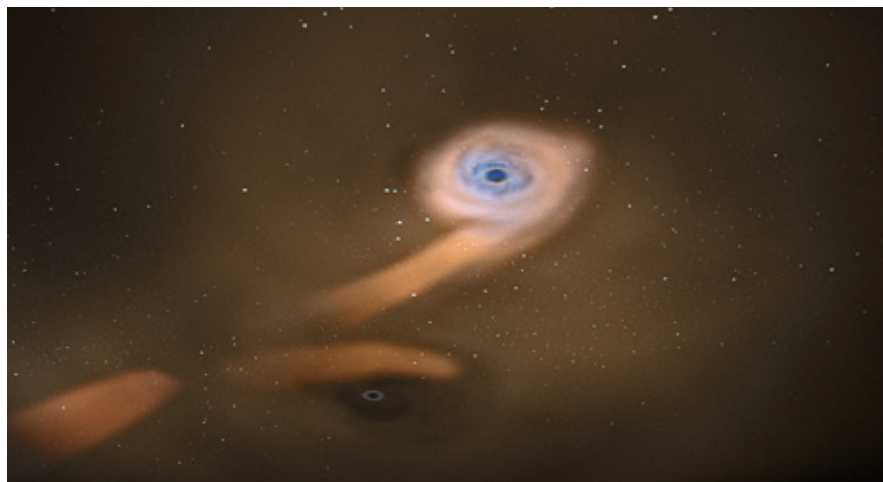
On April 22<sup>th</sup>, 2014, European Space Agency (ESA) reported that Professor Liu Fukun

from the Department of Astronomy, PKU, and his partners have discovered a pair of supermassive black

holes in orbit around each other with XMM-Newton orbiting X-ray observatory. They were discovered because they ripped apart a star when the space observatory happened to be looking in their direction.

Most massive galaxies in the Universe are thought to harbor at least one supermassive black hole at their center. Two supermassive black holes are the smoking gun that the galaxy has merged with another. Thus, finding binary supermassive black holes can tell astronomers about how galaxies evolved into their present-day shapes and sizes.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010, a tidal dis-

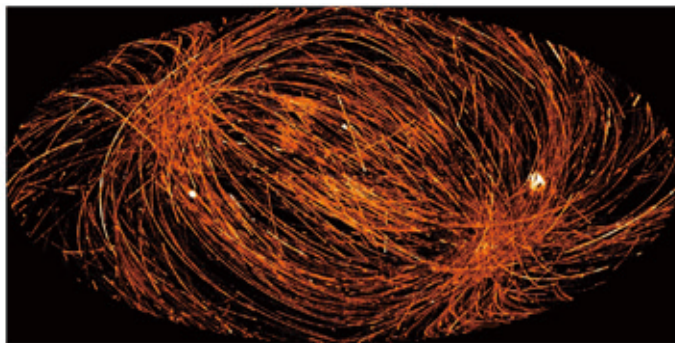


ruption event was spotted by XMM-Newton in galaxy SDSS J120136.02+300305.5. Komossa (Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie) and her colleagues were scanning the data for such events and scheduled follow-up observations just days later with XMM-Newton and NASA's Swift satellite. The galaxy was still spilling X-rays into space. It looked exactly like a tidal disruption event caused by a supermassive black hole but as they tracked the slowly fading emission day after day something strange happened. The X-rays fell below detectable levels between day 27 and 48 after the discovery. Then they re-appeared and continued to follow a more expected fading rate, as if nothing had happened.

Professor Liu Fukun had been working on models of black hole binary systems that predicted a sudden plunge to darkness and then the recovery because the gravity of one of the black holes disrupted

the flow of gas onto the other, temporarily depriving it of fuel to fire the X-ray flare. He found that two possible configurations were possible to reproduce the observa-

tions of J120136. In the first, the primary black hole contained 10 million solar masses and was orbited by a black hole of about a million solar masses in an elliptical orbit. In the second solution, the primary black hole was about a million solar masses and in a circular orbit. In both cases, the separation between the black holes was relatively small: 0.6 milliparsecs or about 2 thousandths of a light year. This is about the width of our Solar System. Being this close, the fate of this newly discovered black hole pair is sealed.



They will radiate their orbital energy away, gradually spiralling together, until in about two million years' time they will merge into a single black hole.

Now that astronomers have found this first candidate for a binary black hole in a quiescent galaxy, the search is inevitably on for more. XMM-Newton will continue its slow survey. This detection will also spur interest in a network of telescopes that search the whole sky for tidal disruption events. 🍷

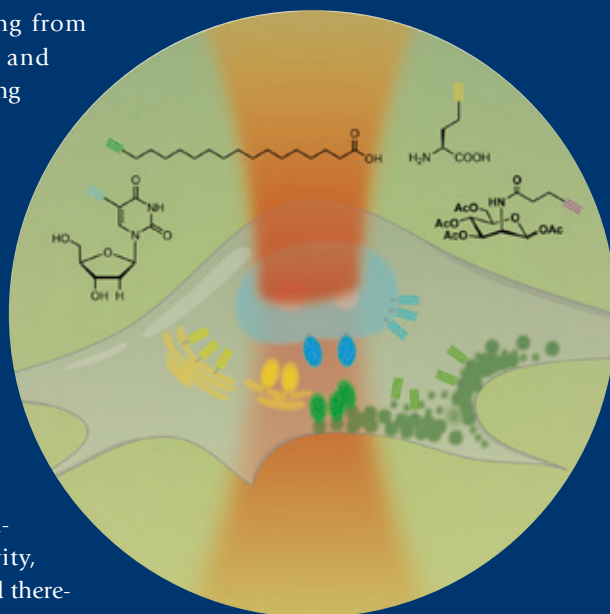
## PKU Research Team Led by Prof. Chen Xing and Prof. Huang Yanyi Developed New Live-Cell Imaging Method

Won Cheng Yi Lewis

Live-cell fluorescence imaging is an important tool used in the field of life sciences research. During a typical fluorescence imaging experiment, researchers typically require the use of fluorophores to observe the micro-organisms of interest. Some commonly used fluorophores include proteins, quantum dots and small molecules of fluorescent dye. Critically, these fluorophores must be of size in nanometer scale, which is also the size of most micro-organisms. The challenge is to design even smaller fluorophores which will result in less interference during live-cell fluorescence imaging.

Recently, a project jointly carried

out by Professor Chen Xing from the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Peking University, and Professor Huang Yanyi from the Bio-Dynamic Optical Imaging Center, has co-developed a new form of live-cell imaging which allows much higher resolutions of imaging marker group. The method they employed is known as Stimulated Raman Scattering Microscopy (SRS). This imaging method affords non-invasiveness, high sensitivity, and molecular specificity and there-



fore should find broad applications in live-cell imaging.

The findings of this research were recently published in the *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* (DOI:

10.1002/anie.201400328). It is hoped that with this new imaging method, it will open up new opportunities for the future research in live-cell imaging. PhD students Hong Senlian and Chen

Tao are co-first authors of this research paper. This research also received funding from the National Natural Science Fund Committee and the Ministry of Science. 📌

## PKU Professor Awarded 2013 Okawa Foundation Research Grant

Yu So-jin

Professor Wang Qianxiang from the School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science, PKU, was awarded the 2013 Okawa Foundation Research Grant. He became the eighth PKU scholar to receive the prize.

The Okawa Foundation was established in 1986, and approved as an authorized non-profit organization by the Japanese Government. The mission of the organization is to promote development in the field of information and telecommunications through means such as awards



and research grants, and to further international academic and cultural exchanges in this area. In 2011, the Okawa Foundation was certified by

the Japanese Government to be “a public interest incorporated foundation”. At first, the awards and grants only went to the local scientists, but since 2006, the Okawa Foundation Research Grant has been expanded to scholars from the United States and Asia.

For the past few years, professor Wang Hanpin, professor Jiao Bingli, professor Wu Xihong, and several researchers from the School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science, PKU, have received the prize. 📌

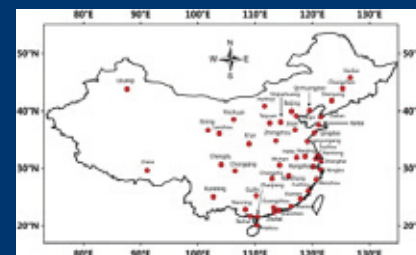
## Achievements in Research on Non-CO<sub>2</sub> Greenhouse Gases Published by *ES&T*

Yu So-jin

In the field of climate change research, the study of the influence of non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases attracts the attention of the international community. Recently, significant progress on non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases research has been made by professor Hu Jianxin, professor Zhang Jianbo, and associate professor Xu Jianhua from the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, PKU. One of their achievements is the estimation of future emission

trend and reduction potential in China, based on their previous study on China’s historical emissions of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). In addition, the research team is the first to report the atmospheric concentrations and changing trend of Trifluoroacetic acid (CF<sub>3</sub>COOH, TFA) in Beijing. Three of their related research results were published on *Environmental Science & Technology (ES&T)*.

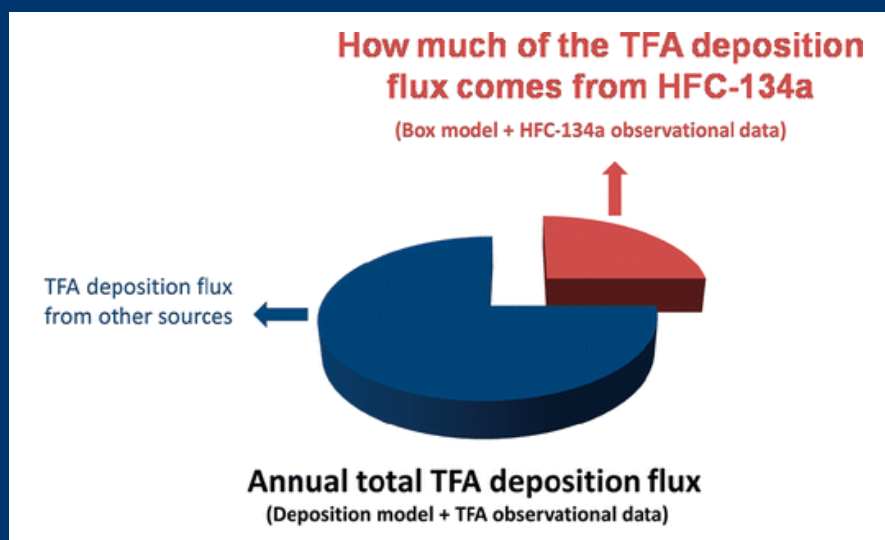
In 2007, the Montreal Protocol Parties reached an agreement on the accelerated phase-out schedule for the production and consumption of



HCFCs and HFCs for dispersive applications in developed and developing countries. These substances are used primarily as a refrigerant for air conditioning, refrigerators and industrial equipments and the foaming agent for polyfoam.

For example, HFC-134a is used mainly in the automobile air-conditioning sector, and its production and consumption in China has been increasing rapidly due to the growth in vehicle number. HFC-23 is a by-product in the production process of HCFC-22. The emission of HFC-23 has increased due to a substantial increase of HCFC-22 production. If left uncontrolled, the global HFCs emissions could be equivalent to 9–19% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2050, and it would mean greater harm for the climatic environment.

The research team compiled comprehensive historical records



(1980–2012) and a projection (2013–2050) of HFC-23 production, abatements, and emissions in China. They also collected a large number of air samples (2012–2013) and analyzed the data using high-performance liquid chromatogra-

phy-tandem mass spectrometry. These results will provide scientific evidences to study the effect of gas emissions on the ecological condition, and provide guidance for implementing effective phasing-out of greenhouse gases in China. ▶

## Prof. Xiao Ruiping Appointed Associate Editor of *New England Journal of Medicine*

Li Xize

Professor Xiao Ruiping, Director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Peking University, accepted the invitation of *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)*, and served as the associate editor of *NEJM*. This is the first time that *NEJM* appointed an associate editor outside the US.

Founded in 1812, *NEJM* is the oldest and the most authoritative comprehensive medical periodical, striving to report important clinical research, medical incidents and medical polices across the globe.

With the rapid development in the field of biomedical sciences in China, *NEJM* has begun to select a associate editor responsible for reports of China and the Asia Pacific region in 2013. After several rounds of selection, Professor Xiao



Ruiping was confirmed as the associate editor of *NEJM*. Serving as the associate editor of *NEJM* is a great honour, and it also indicates the international influence of China in biomedical research field.

Before coming back to China, Professor Xiao Ruiping had worked in the National Institutes of health (NIH) in America for over twenty years and is a senior investigator there. When interviewed, Professor Xiao Ruiping said that she would devote herself to promoting win-win cooperation between China and *NEJM*. On the one hand, she will bring the expertise and influence of *NEJM* into full play, introducing cutting-edge philosophies, methods and concepts, as well as the most authoritative international norms to promote Chinese medical pharmaceutical research. On the other hand, she also hopes that *NEJM* can present the best Chinese clinical research results to the world to better improve the health condition of the humanity. ▶

## Celso Lafer

### Strengthen Ties in Scientific Collaboration

Zhang Chunxiao

Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU visited the São Paulo State Foundation (FAPESP) in Brazil in October, 2013. During the visit, it was announced that the FAPESP Week would be held between April 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Beijing. The main fields of the cooperation are material and nano-chemistry, environmental science, renewable energy technologies, agriculture and life sciences, and medicine and life sciences. FAPESP and PKU represent the top level of academics in their respective countries, and the cooperation of the two will greatly benefit both countries. As mark of the good relations, PKU has the honor to receive Professor Celso Lafer, President of FAPESP. Professor Celso Lafer has been the President of FAPESP (São Paulo Research Foundation) since 2007. He is also Professor Emeritus of the International Relations Institute of the University of São Paulo, and Full Professor (retired) of the

Law School, University of São Paulo. He was twice the Brazilian Minister of External Relations and the Minister of Development, Industry and Trade. From 1995 to 1998, he served as the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the WTO and the UN.

Professor Celso Lafer studied under renowned political theorist Hannah Arendt during the 1960's at Cornell University, from where he received both his Masters and PhD degrees in Political Science. Having majored in humanities and social sciences, he makes great efforts to study natural sciences and engineering. "At this time, rapidly

increasing knowledge has huge influence on people, also the fate of a country. An integrative knowledge system makes human resources management efficient", he said. This is his analysis of the international relations

from his own experience.

With the purpose of internationalizing FAPESP, President Lafer led many symposiums around the world. His focus is currently on China. "The aim of FAPESP, which is also my personal aim, is to develop an international scientific collaboration community, which connects Brazil to other countries in the world, and helps achieve progress at the same time. Now Asia is becoming the engine of the world, and we have already had a symposium in Japan. But I always believe China was and is the first partner of our scientific collaboration because we have similar situation both at country level and academic trend level."

When sharing his views on scientific research, President Lafer said "the aim of this symposium is to improve the potential ability to do research. The topics of this symposium, like environmental science, materials and nano-chemistry, renewable energy technologies, agriculture and life sciences, are all excellent fields in China. I can feel that universities in China have the same feature in research and education---they all have specific aims. And universities will enhance their overall quality to achieve the aim, becoming the first-class universities." He expressed confidence in the cooperation between China and Brazil.

President Lafer also mentioned that there are many representatives from other top universities and organizations around the world in this symposium, which provides a good opportunity to strengthen ties with them. President Lafer also stressed the importance of supporting the cultivation of international elites. Thus, FAPESP offers scholarship to students from undergraduate ones to post-doctorate ones. This greatly motivates the innovative ability of the students, and through this way a large amount of progress has been achieved in many fields.

Then President Lafer introduced some of the ma-





The aim of FAPESP, which is also my personal aim, is to develop an international scientific collaboration community.

major programs conducted by FAPESP. They are RIDC (Research, Innovation and Dissemination Centers), and three environmental programs.

The biggest one that FAPESP is focusing on is the RIDC. The São Paulo Research Foundation supports 17 Research, Innovation and Dissemination Centers (RIDCs), which are selected for funding for a period of time up to eleven years and subject to continuation reviews on year 2, 4 and 7.

Each RIDC is expected to establish a hub of excellent researches in its specific area. In addition, each RIDC must actively seek opportunities to have its research results contribute commercially and/or socially. This includes having relevant high-impact applications, as well as contributing to education and the dissemination of knowledge. The research topics covered by the Centers include the following: food and nutrition; glasses and glass-ceramics; functional materials; neuroscience and neuro-technology.

The other three major programs supported by FAPESP are all related to the environmental field. The first one is the Research Program on Global Climate Change. The Program has a substantial technological component for the development of appropriate environmentally friendly technologies for the future. This does not only concern innovative technologies for the mitigation of emissions, given that the impact of climate change has become apparent. The second one is BIOEN, namely Bio-energy Research Program. It is aimed at combining public and private R&D by using academic and industrial

laboratories to advance and apply knowledge in fields related to ethanol production in Brazil. And the third one is Biota-FAPESP Program, which aimed to not only discover, map and analyze

the origins, diversity and distribution of the flora and fauna of the State of São Paulo, but also to evaluate the possibilities of sustainable exploitation of plants or animals for their economic potential, and provide guidance in the formulation of forest conservation policies.

From Brazil's FAPESP to the world's FAPESP, President Lafer has signed many agreements with other institutions all over the world. He has also begun a new journey, visiting FAPESP's partners one by one. He has a quick mind and is sincere in building strong bonds with various universities around the world. With sharp insight, he leads the FAPESP to play a more significant role in the world. 🍷

## Dr. Marc Lanteigne

### A China Hand from the West

Li Feiyue

Dr. Marc Lanteigne, Chair of Victoria University's China Research Center, has published several academic works on issues surrounding China, including *China's Foreign Policy: An Introduction, the Chinese Party-State in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and *China and International Institutions*. He is also the academic advisor of Cross Cultural Leadership Program co-established by Peking University and Victoria University of Wellington from 2012 to 2013.

Dr. Marc Lanteigne is a Canadian scholar who has developed keen interests in Chinese culture. He has traveled across America, Northern Europe, Asia and Oceania for academic purposes. His endeavor in research and teaching reveals his love for the field he has chosen and the persisting pursuit of knowledge.

### China: "Love at First Sight"

Dr. Marc Lanteigne was born in

Montreal, Canada, and completed his Bachelor and Master degree at the McGill University. During his master-degree study, his interests in China and issues relating to China began to arise.

"I took some courses related to these issues in the graduate school. These problems grasped my heart and I fell in love with the Chinese culture. I used to study Russian and former Soviet Union politics. But after learning about Chinese politics, my interests started to change," explained Lanteigne, with a broad smile on his face.

Dr. Lanteigne has published academic works about China, which have provided in-depth analysis of the issues from different perspectives. In the past decade, he has visited China for more than 40 times so as to gain more objective materials when analyzing China's problems.

When asked about his keen interests in topics related to China, he said that the wide range of issues relating to China allows for great potential in

academic research, especially in terms of foreign policy, political system and international affairs related to the rest of the world, etc.

Meanwhile, the drastic change of China as witnessed in the past 30 years also attracted Lanteigne's attention. During the times of President Jiang Zemin, China's foreign policy mainly focused on the United States and the Eastern Asia. While in the times of President Hu Jintao, China's foreign policy started to shift towards Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Southern Pacific. Now China has engaged in the discussion on Arctic issues. We can observe an increasingly confident China that has gained more experience in handling international affairs from these changes.

"This is what I'm most interested in, and also what I want to teach my students," said Dr. Lanteigne.

### Observing China from New Zealand: Change with Each Passing Day

It may be hard for us to imagine how a country on the other side of the globe would become interested in China. However, with the acceleration of globalization and the rise of China, the rest of the world has begun to cast their eyes to China while China turns its eyes to the world.

Many schools and institutions in New Zealand now offer Chinese courses. On the other hand, there are 3 Confucian Institutes for people in New Zealand to learn about the Chinese culture. "In New Zealand, more and more people have come to realize that China is now playing an important role in the international arena," said Dr. Lanteigne.

As a matter of fact, New Zealand, which we would usually categorized as a western country, sees itself closer to Asia than we might have imagined. In the past 5 years, China has become the second largest trading partner of New Zealand, just next to Australia. "As a result, New Zealand's attention towards China is more focused on the economic environment. Many people

It's very interesting to discuss Chinese issues with PKU students who understand international relations very well. I often hear very innovative opinions from them. Here at PKU, I am not only teaching, but also learning a lot from them.

become interested in China's foreign policy and political system because they want to do business with Chinese counterparts," explained Dr. Lanteigne.

### Cultural Ambassador: The Other Roles

As the Chair of Victoria University's China Research Center, Dr. Lanteigne is truly a cultural ambassador on top of his role as a professor. The researchers of the Center often visit China for academic research and field investigation. Also, a lot of joint research and exchange programs have been initiated between Chinese universities and Victoria University of Wellington.

From 2012 to 2013, Dr. Marc Lanteigne served as the academic advisor of the Cross Cultural Leadership Program co-established by Peking University and Victoria University of Wellington. During that period, he was in charge of the arrangement of the courses and lectures, as well as teaching the culture, history and politics of New Zealand to Chinese stu-

dents.

Rich knowledge about the world and unique point of views of PKU students left a deep impression on Dr. Lanteigne. He noted that, "it's very interesting to discuss Chinese issues with PKU students who understand inter-

national relations very well. Many of them come from other departments including Philosophy, Japanese Studies, and the Economic Department. I often hear very innovative opinions from them. Here at PKU, I am not only teaching, but also learning a lot from them."

This time, Dr. Lanteigne is visiting PKU again to share his new research findings on the Chinese issues. Having visited PKU for 6 times, he mentioned that PKU was like an old friend to him. He hoped that there could be more in-depth cooperation between his university and PKU in the future.

Throughout the year, Dr. Marc Lanteigne hardly has any holiday. But conducting research in the field he loves makes him never feel tired but derive much enjoyment from it.



# Dr. Zhang Chao

## Researching on “Smart Tags”

Aria Gan and Danielle Guo

Dr. Zhang Chao attended the American Chemical Society’s National Meeting in Dallas on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and delivered a presentation on his latest research findings. His invention is a kind of smart tags that can be adhered to food packages as a real-time quality indicator, which changes color over time to indicate food spoilages.

Zhang Chao received his doctoral degree from the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineer, Peking University, and is previously a graduate student from Beijing Institute of Technology. He describes himself as a typical student in the field of natural sciences, spending most of his time in laboratories, assisting his academic advisors and doing research on interested subjects. The idea of the smart tags came up in a casual conversation with a friend of his who is an art major. They were discussing about the materials he had been studying through his graduate period, which include chemicals and materials that could change color with time. His friend suggested that it has the potential to be used as a smart tag to indicate the expiration dates of food products. He immediately realized the brilliance behind the idea, as food spoilage and chemical reactions were both time- and temperature-dependent.

Later, during his two-month exchange at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he bumped into a material system which seemed perfectly suited for the food tag while doing another project. The idea was well supported by his Hong Kong instructor, Prof. Wang Jianfang. After the exchange program ended, Zhang Chao returned to Beijing and discussed the idea with his advisor, Prof. Chun Huayan and Prof. Ling Dongsun, who specialize in the research of rare earth materials. Even though his idea of smart tags did not quite fit in the mainstream of the lab’s research programs, it nonetheless received approval and support from Prof. Yan and Prof. Sun. When asked, Zhang Chao expressed his most sincerely

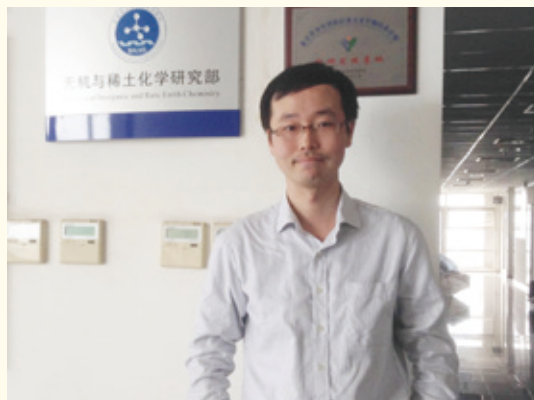
appreciation to his advisors for the support that they have given.

The advisors then introduced him to Prof. Xing Chen’s lab for collaboration, where he conducted experiments on the spoilage process of milk. When the research was completed, his paper was rejected on multiple occasions, with journal editors claiming the research being “too specialized”. He had to conduct more experiments and supplement with some new data before his paper was finally accepted. He and his team filed a patent for this technology, and the university is now supporting the team to seek manufacturers of his invention. To say the least, the smart tag was eventually invented after a series of coincidence and hard work put in.

The smart tags, according to Zhang Chao’s introduction, are based on nanorod reactions between gold and silver. During the reaction, nano-sized gold particles would be coated by nano-sized silver layers, which lead to the color changes from red or reddish orange to green. Other than in solution, the reactions can also take place in hydrogels, which is easier for demonstration. Chao demonstrated to the journalist the experiment in a test tube. The particles react slowly under the room temperature. In order to accelerate the process, he put the test tube in a hot water bath of 65°C. Within a few minutes, the red-colored solution gradually turned into orange, yellow, and finally green. Zhang Chao mentioned that the green color could continue evolving into blue and violet with some alteration to the recipe. In principle, any of these colors could be used to signify spoilage, but they chose green because it was the color that human eyes are most sensitive to.

To adapt to food with different shelf lives, the reaction in the gel must be precisely tuned so that the reaction rate is parallel to the spoilage rate in a specific kind of food. Zhang Chao said that the ability to tune the reaction’s rate and its sensitivity to temperature are critical components of the smart tag, as different food will exhibit different characteristics during the spoilage process.

When discussed about manufacturing



on an industrial basis, Zhang Chao emphasized that large-scale production can be quite different from experiments in the lab, as carrying out the process in smaller scale is much easier. Mixing the ingredients within a critical few seconds may not be a problem in a test tube, but to do that in large tanks requires more consideration and endeavor.

Apart from the food tags, he has worked some other projects that may have potential applications. One of them is a “reversible light-controlled luminescent switch pattern” which may be used in rewritable optical storage of data. Another is a skin-plaster that slowly changes its color under sunlight, thus can potentially indicate the cumulative amount of ultraviolet radiation.

For the smart tags, his colleagues and he are currently researching on a new and improved system, where it can hopefully display the opposite color changing process: from green to red. “People seem to be accustomed to the idea that red is the alarming color while green means safe. I guess we might have to take this into consideration.” This time, in order to develop the smart tag 2.0, he is looking into rare earth materials, which the laboratory of his advisors, Prof. Yan and Prof. Sun are familiar with.

Having spent 8 years in the laboratory, Zhang Chao said he is now willing to try some other roads. “Many people do researches because they are interested, but it is no easy work. There is a high risk of failure. Some people get frustrated and quit after hitting the wall several times, which is quite normal.” Zhang Chao mentioned that he is appreciative of his advisors who had been so supportive for him to follow his interests in the lab, making the process itself a more joyful experience. 🍷

# Dominique de Villepin: Asia's Leading Role in a Global Financial Reform

Yuan Yating

*Dominique de Villepin, born on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1953 in Labatt (Morocco), earned bachelor degrees in Arts and Law, and graduated from the Paris Institute of Political Sciences and Ecole Nationale d'Administration. From May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 to May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, he served as the Prime Minister of France. On December of 2008, he became the President of the Asia-Pacific CEOs and Governors Association. He took the position of the President of UCRG International Advisory Board in October, 2013, and committed to help reform the world's credit rating system. On the morning of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, he paid a visit to Peking University and delivered this speech at the School of Economics.*

*This script is rearranged according to the speech recording.*

## It's Time to Wake Up

Yes, it's time for us to wake up. Financial instability is a huge threat. It's the cancer of the globalization. Let's have a look at the facts. Financial instability has always caused catastrophes. This has been true in the nineteenth century, when the collapse of several major banks seemed to break Europe finance in the 1880s. The initial response to the rise of nationalism was the economy, as well as politics in growing chaos within European countries. The second response was globalization. European nations strengthened their rule in the world. This can be seen from the conference in Berlin in 1885, where the European discussed about the division of Africa. China at that time had been drawn into the revolution of the world economy when many Chinese were forced to work abroad. In

the end, we can say that this financial crisis induced the situation that allowed the First World War to happen.

Since 1970, there have been more and more financial crises. For example, the debt crisis occurred in the African countries in the 1980s. Then, came the exchange rate crisis in Europe. Then, came the currency crisis in emerging countries such as the Asian Financial crisis in 1997, the Russian crisis in 1998, the Argentine and Turkish crisis in 2000. And finally in 2008, the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers led to a global financial crisis.

What we did get from all these lessons of instability? Let's be honest, we haven't taken a good lesson from it. There have been some reforms. But they haven't been at the level with the needs. We haven't done enough to refuse the monopoly of the dollar. Nothing.

What will our future look like? If we don't act, financial crises will bring social and political catastrophes. They will boil the balance in globalization if we don't take more steps.

## Asia: Leading the Way Against Financial Crisis

In fact, Asia is waking up. Asia is rising again. And Asia has led the way in the 5 or 4 financial sections. Everyone would agree with that. Asia is an incoming power. That is true particularly here in China. Today Asia represents the surge of world's output, and will soon represent half of the total output. Asia is the creditor of the world. Today, Asian countries accumulated massive reserve because of their very competi-

tive exports to the U.S. and Europe. It has more power because it's freeing itself from political catastrophes through union and dialogues, for example the Asian Forum has been very active in the last 20 years. Asia has also gotten more cultural strength and its soft power is growing.

But Asia has more challenges to face as well. In fact, it is at the forefront of most global threats. For example, Asia is first vulnerable to environmental threats. Air and water pollution have become the main issues in Asian countries. This will not only be a health issue but soon an economic issue because they will reduce the growth rate. Asia is particularly vulnerable to political conflicts. Besides, Asia has massive needs to improve its infrastructures in order to get the chance to tap all its growth potential. In Bo'ao Forum, China's Premier Li Keqiang stressed the importance of a common political foundation based on shared responsibilities, shared interests and a common destiny.

## Three Principles about the Global Financial Reform

Those problems do not only apply to Asia. We need a global reform of the financial sector. We need reforms on common principles.

First, we need diversity. The economy is not a unified issue. There's not one single economic model working the same for everyone. We need to promote diversity through collaborations among different economic zones, rather than imposing a single model.

In fact, Asia is waking up. Asia is rising again. Asia can build a new model of the credit rating system for the reference of the world, and serves as a starting point for a new world-wide system.



For the second principle, we need confidence. This means working on better governments in preparation for the reform of financial systems. Also, this means working on information. That's why we should create a global statistical platform that provides the world with comparable and trustful data on growth and GDP, and data on the unemployment and debts.

The third principle is fairness. Fairness becomes the great theme of the world. We respect the culture and sovereignty of many different countries. The typical rule here is reciprocal.

Thus, this world-wide reform that I hope for will need first to be built on region-to-region collaboration. Asia is not alone. Europe and Asia have an important relationship and they should create a spiritual silk road.

#### **Key: The Reform of the Credit Rating System**

We need to know several aspects of the financial reform.

The first key is the reform of currency. The hegemonies of currency have created huge threats. General de Gaulle expressed clearly that the necessity of new and fair system could be based on a world-wide counting unit and based on a basket of currencies.

The second key is the reform of the banking systems. We need stronger regulations of the different deposit and investment activities of the bank institutions.

The third key is offshore investments. There are more and more "dark holes" fueled by criminal activities and corruption.

The fourth key is the reform of the credit rating system.

Let's talk more details about the crucial reform, the reform of the credit rating system. This reform, in my view, is the key reform. Why? There are three reasons to this. The first reason, it's an easier reform. It's a light industry. The second reason, the assessment of the reform is the center of confidence, which is the basis for stability. The third reason is that the reform is ripe. The financial crisis has shown the obvious weaknesses of rating system.

In fact, Asia is waking up. Asia is rising again. Asia can build a new model of the credit rating system for the reference of the world, and serves as a starting point for a new world-wide system. It has the chance to take on the leadership in the reform of the credit rating system. As we can see, there is an economic strength deriving in Asia and spreading all over the world. There is also a political reason for it, as Pre-

mier Li Keqiang mentioned, the urgent necessity of reforming the credit rating system, which can benefit the environment, production and the growth.

But we should also realize that the credit rating system is diverse and cannot be justified in a single dimension. Diversity is a good rating tool with two different rating systems—one at the regional level and the other at the global level. For this reason, it is not necessary to rely on a single system any more. Good practices could also be launched as a result. China has implemented reforms over the past years and has achieved quite a positive result. At the same time, this measure could bring about benefits surrounding the credit rating systems.

#### **Conclusion**

These are the issues that require governments, companies and citizens to be creative in order to yield new suggestions. That's why it's a fascinating time for economies around the world. It's a time for imagination. It's a time for determination. And we are all involved in this new worldwide revolution of the new globalization. We all have the responsibility to make it specific. Do think about it. ▾

# On Cross Cultural Exchanges between Universities: Interview with the Vice Principal International of University of Edinburgh

Yang Linhan

*Professor Stephen Hillier is the Vice Principal International at the University of Edinburgh. Joined the University of Edinburgh in 1985, he was appointed Professor of Reproductive Endocrinology in 1993. He is also an Honorary Consultant Clinical Scientist with Lothian University Hospitals Trust.*

*He has previously worked in London, Leiden, and Maryland, where he was a Fogarty International Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institutes of Health. Professor Hillier also served as a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, and holds degrees from Leeds, Wales and Edinburgh (DSc 1992).*

*The following text is rearranged according to an interview recording.*

I think that everybody who works in the academic land stands to gain from the overseas experience of different cultures. It does not matter which country you come from. If you only stay in your own country, interact with those of your own population, you will miss so much of the world. So, as a young scientist, when I first finished my degree training at British universities, it was natural for me to go to a foreign country for a period of time to continue my scholarship, but also to expand my cultural horizons. My own experience was dictated by my academic age, so I went to Maryland in America, and the Leiden University in Netherlands to do research. Then I went to London to work on test tube baby research. We should be encouraged going abroad, otherwise you do not know how it will work out.

The University of Edinburgh is nearly 4 centuries old. It was created back to 1583 as one of the first-ever international universities. Since I became the Vice President, for the first time ever, in 429 years, we have launched an international interaction strategy, focusing

on building our international identity. Therefore, we went abroad to attract more students. We are looking to be understood more clearly by the rest of the world, and to be recognised as one of the top universities in the world.

I will put this into 4 main goals. We want the world to know our strengths, what we stand for, how good we are. We also want to attract best students from everywhere around the world. We want to attract best staff to do the best research, teaching, to provide the best education for our students. Lastly, we want to make sure that the knowledge we have attained through our research and activities is used to make the world a much better place.

The undergraduate exchange program between the University of Edinburgh and Peking University not only involves the field of frontier sciences such as stem cells, but also includes history, law, politics and Chinese culture. For the communication between the two universities, I have seen it growing, and I have helped it grow in the past decade. Two major things have taken place simultaneously. The first is that we have founded and started to develop our medical school. This also includes the development of a partnership with Peking University Health Sciences Centre. We have started a discussion with Peking University about collaborations in PhD training. We are also arranging for scholarships to allow PKUHSC's students to come to University of Edinburgh to do their master's and PhD training. When they return to PKU, hopefully they can spread their experience of studying and researching at University of Edinburgh.

The second one is that we have opened a Confucius Institute in Edinburgh. We have a very strong cultural, linguistic, as well as social center for



our Chinese students, so the Confucius Institute became much like a meeting place for our Chinese students. They even held a Chinese New Year celebration there. I think that Peking University students have a strong influence on the atmosphere for Chinese students there, which is very good for University of Edinburgh.

I remember that in 2007 we had a degree awarding ceremony at PKU, where all of students who have participated in the exchange program came together to celebrate their association with University of Edinburgh. And at that ceremony, we also awarded an honorary degree to Professor Zhang Mengshan of PKU, who was trained in the University of Edinburgh.

Basically, every year we have more and more agreements that are being explored and developed. Just last year, a new joined research center for Chinese studies — across the fields of humanities and social sciences — was opened, with premises situated in both schools.

I think we should be opened to


changes, and also become partners not just in terms of research in science, but also in the humanities and social sciences. There is a shared cultural awareness of the challenges of living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I guess that the biggest challenge for the UK is to allow more students to be aware of the Chinese culture. If there is one single thing that will help in our collaboration, that is to make more Chinese students learn English well, and make more British students learn Chinese well. This would allow us to have a meaningful exchange in our culture and social lifestyle.

In order to balance between the challenges and traditions, we keep the best of the past, and we gradually incorporate the best of the current. We will never stop to do anything that was successful in the past. And we will start to do new things that we believe would be successful in the future. This has al-

lowed us to gradually shift into new, more effective methods, rather than making sudden changes that might not be good in the long run. So for all of our new developments, we have interdisciplinary research and teaching, be it in the field of health sciences, environment, law, etc. All of those areas are taught and researched by members of faculty from individual schools.

I think that the needs for more people to have access to university education around the world means that a different expectation should be attached to the different type of education that a university provides. It is almost impossible to have very extensive focus on research activities, and make it available to everybody. Not all higher education should be based on research in the university. If we want all the 7.3 billion people on the planet to receive university education, it is probably not

realistic.

So you have to recast, reconceptualise what it means for university education. It may not always be the same thing. Maybe we need different types of universities in different regions, with different parts that have different priorities. We may need more choices in terms of what the priority is. You want an education, a profession, a job, you would say, "yes". What if you want more than that, such as the ability and opportunity to create intellectual and social opportunities in the future? Or do you want a university education that simply as an expression of experience and as a part of broader liberal education? The politics in your country, the economy in your country, the climates, and the environment of your locality, all of the things will determine what is feasible for research and education. 

## Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan: The Importance of a University's Culture

Zheng Zihui

*Professor Tan Chorh Chuan was appointed President of the National University of Singapore in December 2008. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the National University Health System. A renal physician, he obtained his medical training at NUS, and research training at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford. He was the Dean of the NUS Faculty of Medicine from 1997 to 2000, and served as the Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health Singapore, from 2000 to 2004.*

*In this interview, Professor Tan shared with us his experience in leading NUS, and the various reforms and progress he had put in place. Professor Tan also shared with us highlights of a residential college, and stressed the importance of cultivation of a university's unique culture.*

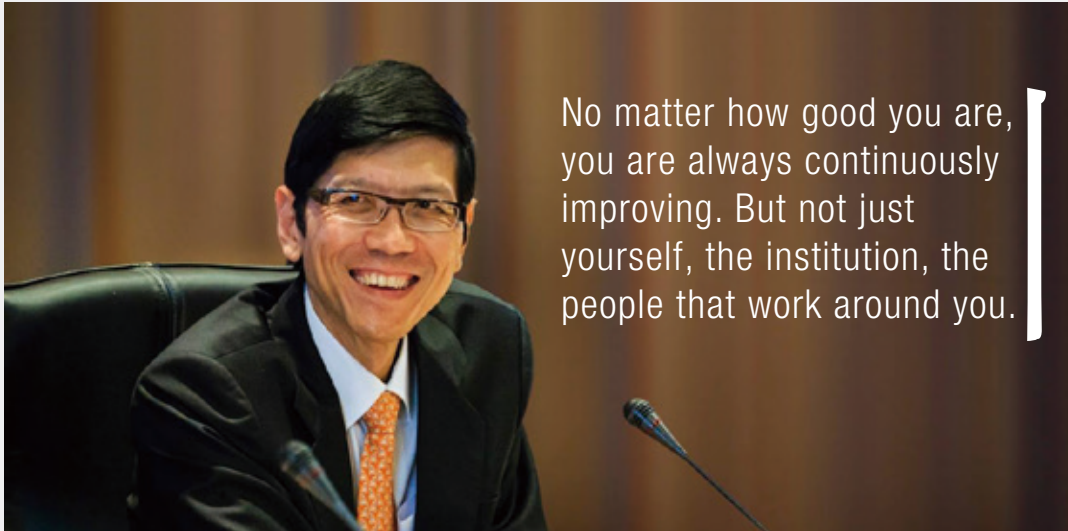
I think we have many new developments during the period. On the education side, the highlight would be the opening of our new university town. This is a project where we bought an old golf court and converted it into an extension of our cam-

pus. The buildings there include residential colleges for students, and many new facilities as well as sport facilities, cultural facilities such as practice room for music and dancing. Essentially, what we are trying to do is to create a set of facilities, bring a diverse group of students together and enable them to have a very strong interaction.

I can give you two examples on how this works. One is that every NUS student can use the facilities, so we have classes that... Say that we have the sports hall where our competition and training take place, and in the same building there are rooms in which any student can book for music practice or dancing. Those rooms are next to the theatres and seminar rooms. Then, there're cafes and places where people can meet. What is happening is that you find different types of students mixing together where normally they would not. In the past, in NUS the sports complex is in one part of the campus, the cultural

complex is in another place, and the study places are yet in another place. The sportsmen do not usually get to mix with the people who are interested in music and dancing. But when you put them in one place, it greatly increases the chance for students and faculties to mix, and I think that is very important. What we want to do is to open up the minds of students to as many dimensions as possible.

The second example is, within this university town, there are also 4 residential colleges. So these are places where students stay, but they are different from hostels. We try to get as diverse a group as possible. So when you apply to stay in the university town, we would randomize you to one of the colleges. So the college will have students from different disciplines mixed altogether. Where you stay is also randomized. Every room is a single room, but it is designed so that every six rooms is one community. Each one holds 600 students,



No matter how good you are, you are always continuously improving. But not just yourself, the institution, the people that work around you.

and about 100 students are international students. So you will have students from about 30 countries staying in the college. In this way we created a very diverse community. And in between the colleges are dining halls, where eating breakfast and dinner there is compulsory. This makes sure that students actually interact, and the students in the college actually take courses together in the college. Say you stay in Tembusu College, 600 students have to take 5 courses within 2 years, and the courses are taught in the college where you are staying. Each course has 15 students in it, and so the 15 students will come from different disciplines and there will be some international students. So the whole idea is that we want to have a very diverse student population that interacts very closely together. Then here we have some very nice facilities for the students: the sports, dance, music practice suites, swimming pool, and restaurants and so on. Every week, there will be about 10,000 students that use the facilities and we have about 4000 students living there.

There are many stories I could share, maybe I will share some stories about the culture of the place, which I think is the most important thing that a university develops. So I would like look for culture from signs of what people do. If I think about it, I can give you a couple of examples. Earlier this year, during January and February, we had a very long, dry season. Singapore usually has a lot of rain, but for about six weeks we had no rain. It was the worst we had for 149 years, so all the grass

was dying and brown. In the middle of all of this, my colleague who was in charge of campus planning sent me some photos and what they had done is that they had made use of the dry weather to get some of our bushes to flower. This is very common in the tropics in dry weather if you look after them in a certain way, they burst out with colors.

You can say that it is a small thing, but for me, it is a sign of real pride in ownership that people take. They own the campus and they are proud of it, so even though the weather is bad, they are still thinking of ways to make the campus more beautiful, so I think that is a good sign of ownership and of commitment to the university. And we also have a lot of events that we hold every year. For applicants who are choosing a university, we do a big open-house. So every year we have this big open house, we will set a booth, faculty will come, and students groups will come. We will set up entertainment; bands will play, like a big carnival. The main part is to introduce the university to applicants, but what I find is when I spent the day going around, I always notice that the teams try to do different things every year. And some of it can be small little things, you know, like small little touches. One small thing that I noticed once is that they put up this yellow directional sign that pointed at many directions.

So again, you can see that these are all very small things that may not matter, but they are little things that indicate the culture of striving to be better. No matter

how good you are, you are always continuously improving. But not just yourself, the institution, the people that work around you. We really want to have a very good team, like a football team, where there are good players and they pass the ball to each other and score goals. It is much better than a football team with people who are all very talented, but they all want to score goals themselves. In the long

term, it is not a very sustainable model for us, so we need this sense of personal wanting to excel but also this sense of collective excellence. So if your group does better than my group, I should work harder. But I should also be happy that your group makes NUS better. I think that cultural excellence is very important. And there is also the culture of innovation, meaning you have to do things where people are not doing yet. Unlike PKU where you have so many talented people in a huge country, we are a very small university in a very small country. We got to be a lot more innovative, and part of being that is to get out to new areas where you can make contributions. And so being multiple disciplining is very important, and everybody says that. The question is whether you have a culture where people are happy to work together. And over the years, I think we have made very good progress in developing that culture.

It all starts from the leadership. The leadership must be able to work together. The Presidents, Vice Presidents, Deputy Presidents, so you need to choose people who are strong academics, who can bring people together and look after the faculty, but you also need people who know what it takes in order for them to excel, and who must work with the other groups. In fact that's the best way for them to excel. And, of course, we have all kinds of incentives. Those are important. But if the leadership does not reinforce the message, then quite often you find this very difficult to really make a difference. 🍷



# On Research and International Partnership: Interview with the Vice President of UBC

Zheng Zihui

*Professor John Hepburn is the Vice President of Research at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He was educated at the University of Waterloo (BSc, 1976), University of Toronto (PhD, 1980), and University of California Berkeley (NATO Postdoctoral Fellow, 1980-82). He became Dean of Science of UBC in 2003, and Vice President, Research in 2005. The international portfolio was added to Professor John's list of responsibilities in August 2009.*

*In this interview, Professor Hepburn talked about his experience and challenges faced in the exchanges and collaborations between different universities.*

**M**y work focuses on handling international partnerships, which are generally based on research partnerships. This includes student mobility agreements that are very specific to specific area of study. Thus, it doesn't really require the university's intervention to keep track of all the students and make sure that all the agreements are properly negotiated. A research partnership also does not require anything at my level, because the researchers will get together and do the research. But when you get to a strategic partnership, like the kind that I had in discussion with the Max Planck society, and then you have to have university coordination, because it involves university resources and protection of intellectual property and all of those

things. And that is what I am in charge of.

So with the big universities, when you come to them, the interest is obviously on a research partnership, which will be what your President would want to talk to me about. And so, it is natural, since I have responsibility for research at the university, for me to take on the international portfolio. In reality, partnerships between two large research universities involve research partnerships. It may be anything including graduate student mobility, joint research projects and joint funding research projects. In essence, many of the higher level and important interactions between major universities are linked to research somehow.

I believe that any kind of research is global in nature. People, who are experts in a certain area, whether it is English literature or Physics, are generally spread across the globe. Even in my own research, my closest collaborators are often away from my own university and in the newsroom. He comes to my lab and I visit him, and we publish papers together which is fairly normal research. So good research starts off with the help of international partnerships. Even beyond that, how do you have research with real impact? Well, there has to be good research to start with, which contains what people around the world care about. That means you have to have good



researchers, including faculty members and graduate students, with an excellent team of support staff and good facilities. It is really a whole package of things that goes together. Therefore, all good universities will try to recruit the best students and faculty members from all over the world. We cannot pretend that we can find them in just one country.

And then there is global enterprise. If the researchers only cared about the university, then it is probably not very good. We talk about world-class university all the time, but what is the idea of a world-leading university? What are the key features?

Of course there are rankings and so on, but I think that the strongest indicator, if we talking about research, is how good are the PhD students you recruit? Are you getting the best PhD students from around the world to come to do their PhDs at your institution? If you do, that they are choosing to come to your university to establish their careers, then you are probably good. The same goes to faculty members, we expect to be in competition with Berkeley, Stanford, and with PKU. I think it is the quality of people you can attract from outside to come, either as advanced students or as

faculty members, is the best indicator of a good university.

We are trying to broaden our international markets in two senses. We are trying to keep the international students that come to our campus to be as diverse as possible. It would be very easy for us if we simply want to increase the number of students, as we can just come and recruit more students from China. But we want the students who come from China to work with students from Canada, and also to work with those from India and Brazil and so forth. We are trying to diversify the students who come to our campus and study. We are also trying to diversify the countries that our students go to. We have a lot of students who go for exchanges, and they usually go to the “safer” countries, such as the UK, France, and Australia. We want them to go to countries that are more challenging, like China, because they may not speak Chinese. That is what we are trying to do: to send our students out and get them to countries outside of their comfort zone. If you do go to countries that you are very comfortable with, then you will not be learning very much.

We find that most of our students have parents who are born outside of Canada, or they themselves born outside of Canada, because Canada is an immigrant society. However, the knowledge that they have or their parents have is out of date. For our Chinese students, they have an image of China out of 30 years ago. And so, we have to convince the students who speak Chinese at home that the reason that you have to go to China is the China they think they know is not the China that exists today. This is quite a challenge for us because our student body is very international. What is true about any immigrant community is that they carry with them a kind of negative impression of the country they left behind, especially when they migrated with “the hope for a better life”.

We will continue to keep working on it. Because partnerships develop over years, and you cannot say that we are going to be the best friends of PKU, for example, and have it happen tomorrow. So it takes a lot of students coming back and forth. It takes faculty members, joint research programs, things like that. Having governmental support from the Canadian government would be nice, and that of Chinese government as well. So the China council is a way of addressing deepening partnerships. We are also in discussion about increase in joint academic programs. So we are taking a lot of things forward, and trying to focus on a relatively small number of Chinese universities. We have, currently, fairly active relationships with up to 90 Chinese universities.

Looking forward, I think where the areas of potentials are the collaborations in the fields of the social sciences, international relations in particular. China is incredibly important to the world economy. China is also incredibly important to certain regional politics and increasingly global politics. Therefore, China’s international development is increasingly important. These are areas where people are interested in. One cannot claim to understand how the world operates politically, and economically, without first understanding China. In natural sciences, there is not really a Chinese science versus a European Science versus a South America Science. Hence scientific interactions are always important. I think there is a scholarly need to engage with China in social sciences, political sciences, and cultural studies. China is not a very well understood country, and I think that leads to a lot of dangerous myths about China. People tend to deal with China based on myths and misunderstanding, and that can be dangerous, because China is too important of a country to be understood based on these wrongful assumptions. ▾

*This article is based on the interview of Professor Peter Mathieson, the current President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). He attended the launch of Yenching Academy at Peking University (PKU) and the international forum with the theme of “the Future of the Research University in the Age of Globalization—Innovations in Talent Cultivation”. In this interview, he shared his insights into leading HKU in the next five years.*

Having assumed office on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Professor Peter Mathieson became the first President of foreign nationality in the history of HKU. This outstanding British scholar was previously dean of the University of Bristol’s medicine and dentistry faculty.

At the beginning of his term, Mathieson suggested in a session with alumni that his vision for HKU was for the 102-year-old institution to strive for the maximization of its potential research achievements. “I think the excellence of the staff, students and alumni can lead the university to greater heights,” Professor Mathieson said.

### The Change: Being New as an Advantage

As a specialist in renal science, Professor Mathieson’s first encounter with Hong Kong was back in 2004, when he organized the Workshop on Prevention of Renal Disease with the Hong Kong Medical Association. After the appointment as President of HKU, the most frequently asked question for him was probably how he felt like fitting in the environment of Hong Kong or China. According to him, the fact that he was new to Hong Kong had been an advantage for him.

“I came to Hong Kong with no baggage and no preconceived ideas. So I can focus just on what I think is best for the university,” Said Professor Mathieson. At the same time, he considered it an exciting opportunity to start something new in this stage of his life.

Speaking of the efforts to adapt to the new environment, Professor Ma-

# Leading to Greater Heights

President of HKU Prof. Peter Mathieson

Li Feiyue



thieson said, "I need to know the history, culture, and Chinese language. I learnt a little bit Cantonese before and I will start my Putonghua (Mandarin) lessons next week."

Despite the differences, Mathieson did not feel too much of cultural shocks in Hong Kong. Instead, there were many things that seemed familiar to him like driving on the left hand side on the road. English is widely spoken here. In the newspapers, there are coverage of football and horse races. These things are what he was used to at home, which made it easier for him to fit in.

## The Vision: HKU's Future

Aiming at bring HKU to brand new heights, Professor Mathieson has very high expectation of the university in the future. As a matter of fact, his goal is very clear— make HKU be "even stronger, enjoys even bigger reputation in China and the rest of the world."

He realized it is very important to work with the Mainland China, and also to carry on the heritage and tradition of working with the rest of the world. Although it can be demanding to do the both things at the same time, these are very important to the future

of HKU.

More importantly, Mathieson deemed that it was an opportunity for HKU to act as a bridge for the rest of China, and for the rest of the world. This should be the important principle of the university, rather than the rankings.

"I want to be highly regarded," Said Mathieson, "But it is also dangerous to only think about rankings. I want HKU to be excellent in everything. Excellent in teaching, research, knowledge exchange, social policy, public engagement. If we achieve all these things, the ranking will follow."

## The Plan: Listening Mode in the First Year

In the beginning of the presidency of Professor Mathieson, he already had specific plans of the next five years. Apart from some personnel adjustments, he would spend his first year at HKU gathering information.

He initiated a series of visits to different faculties and planned to spend time interacting with students, staff and deans in order to learn about the university and its strengths and weaknesses. In addition, he would also visit the administrative divisions including finance department, library, information technology department, and human resources department to know their daily routines and operation. This is what Professor Mathieson considered as a "listening mode".

The trip to PKU was also the first visit in his term. He approved and appreciated the idea of developing students' leadership and innovation capability, which constitute the focus of cultivating talents is the same for both PKU and HKU.

"The spirit of the university is defined by the students," said Mathieson, "In terms of the educational and personal development of the students, the spirit of HKU is defined by its alumni. If the graduates become successful, happy and feel loyalty to Hong Kong, we will feel that we are doing the right thing." ▽

## Higher Education Planning in Asia Conference 2014 held at PKU

Heng Kang Wei

On March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the Higher Education Planning in Asia Conference 2014 (HEPA) co-organized by Peking University (PKU) and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) was held at PKU. Over 80 scholars and administrators from 18 institutions in mainland China, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Australia and the United States attended the conference.

The theme of the conference is


“Planning for New Heights”. 22 speakers made presentations on a wide range of topics, such as the impacts of technology on learning environment, campus planning and budget, development of universities in various national contexts and challenges faced by senior administrators of an international campus. Live video links were established with the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) Pacific Regional Conference in Hollywood, Los Angeles, to allow for interactions between participants from both sides.

Vice President of PKU Li Yansong delivered the opening address at the conference. Vice President Li highlighted the strong, long-lasting relations between the development of PKU and the history of the country since the universi-



ty was founded at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the intention of reviving the crumbling nation and the university planning reached significant milestones at every decisive historic moments of the national history. At present, university planning has acquired enormous significance for PKU since China is now undergoing a rapid transition and trying to seize the golden opportunities provided by the present international political and economic landscape.

During the first video conference with SCUP, Professor Jeffrey Lehman, Vice Chancellor of New York University Shanghai, presented his view on planning and developing higher education institutions in the East and West. Professor Lehman focused on the challenges and opportunities faced by university administrators and planners in the age of globalization and frequent cross-cultural communication. His personal experiences of working at the School of Transnational Law of Shenzhen Graduate School, PKU and NYU Shanghai Campus provided the audience with classic and illustrative examples of administration at internationalized, off-shore campuses.

Participants rated the HEPA Conference 2014 positively. They found that the topics of the presentations and panel discussions highly relevant to their actual work and that the ample opportunities for peer exchanges throughout the conference greatly facilitated their professional networking. 

## PKU-Initiated International Consortium of Chinese Studies Set Sail

Heng Kang Wei

In the inaugural meeting hosted on April 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, by Peking University (PKU), the International Consortium of Chinese Studies (ICCS) was officially launched.

The foundation of the ICCS was proposed by the National School of

Development (NSD) of PKU, with the aim of enhancing the academic communication and information exchange among global Chinese Studies institutions. The Consortium focuses on various disciplines in social sciences, including economics, politics,

sociology, law and international relations.

It was agreed that the ICCS members would gather in China in even-numbered years, while the other annual meetings would be held abroad, such as the next one that will be held

at the University of Oxford in 2015.

For this edition, the two-day inaugural meeting was divided into eight sessions on the topics of Industrial Policy, Governance, Human Capital and Inequality, Financial Policy, Political Economy, Social Changes, and Perspectives of Chinese Studies. Each session involved at least three presenters from China, Europe, Japan, Korea, Australia and the United States.

At the welcome ceremony, PKU Professor Wang Enge expressed his congratulation for the launch of the consortium. In his speech, he mentioned that “during the past two or three decades, China’s economy has gone through a groundbreaking change and become the second largest around the world.” Professor Wang predicted that future changes in this country will have a direct influence on the global economy.

In Professor Wang’s eyes, the traditional theories, mostly based on experiences from Western countries, are no longer fully reliable guides to China or other modern developing countries. The NSD, dedicated to the research of the practices of China for decades, is challenged by Professor Wang to grab the chance of the ICCS’s establishment, in order to collaborate with other members and promote related researches.

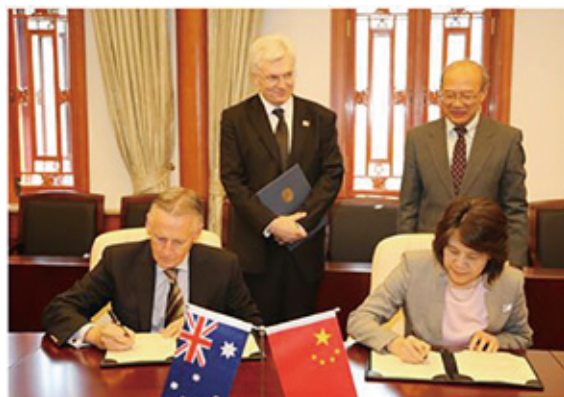
Professor Justin Yifu Lin, Honorary Dean of the NSD, addressed on his theory of “modern structural economics” as the opening speaker. He gave specific suggestions on how to support industries with a country’s comparative advantages, which will result in rapid and sustainable economic growth. ▽



## PKU Signed Agreement with the University of Melbourne on Collaboration in Psychiatry Research and Training

Heng Kang Wei

The signing ceremony of the Psychiatric Research and Training cooperation project between Peking University and the University of Melbourne was held in Linhuxuan, Peking University on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The ceremony saw the attendance of Professor Glyn Davis, Principal of the University of Melbourne, and Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU.



The collaboration will bring together experts in the fields of psychiatry, neurobiology and social psychiatry from both universities on joint research and study on the various issues of mental health, including schizophrenia and disaster psychology.

In addition, a joint doctorate program and a postdoctoral exchange program will also be launched under this agreement. The signing of the agreement will be instrumental in raising the academic profile of the two schools in the area of mental health research, and will significantly raise the standards of the PhD students in the field of Psychiatry. The agreement also marks a new high in the decade-long collaboration in the field of mental health between the two schools.

After the signing ceremony, experts from both PKU and the University of Melbourne took part in an interaction session hosted by Professor Lu Lin, Director of the PKU Sixth Hospital. Subsequently, the Australian experts conducted the first round of interview for the candidates of the joint doctorate program who are recommended by the PKU Sixth Hospital.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, the two sides held the first joint workshop of Psychi-

atry Research at the Sixth Hospital. In the keynote speech, Australian experts introduced the results achieved in the “image of schizophrenia and autism biomarkers”, “strategies on improving the mental health of the elderly” and “psychosocial psychiatric community” to their Chinese counterparts, to which the Chinese experts contributed to comments.

Professor Lu Lin then represented the Sixth Hospital to deliver an introduction on the achievements attained by the Hospital in the research of depression, drug dependence neurobiology, clinical therapies and sleep disorders.

Subsequently, experts from both sides conducted in-depth discussions on topics including “Community health and mental disaster: challenges in management and opportunities in research” and “Future of Neuroscience and Psychiatry: transition to clinical practice”.

The exchanges and cooperation have deepened the understandings and exchanges between experts from both sides and laid the foundation for joint research in the future. It also created valuable opportunities for students from the Sixth Hospital to study in the University of Melbourne. ▽

## International Youth Classical Drama Festival

Li Wan Ning

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a group of students from Peking University put up a performance about Oedipus the King, which is one of the greatest Athenian tragedies, at the Ekklesiasterion, a site of ancient Greek theatre. They were the only delegation from China to participate in the International Youth Classical Drama Festival held in Meseni, Greece. Although this is only the third year of this classical drama festival, it has attracted many lovers of classical drama from more than 14 countries all over the world. Their performances were graced by Mayor of Meseni Mr. Anastasopoulos, Vice Mayor Mr. Davillas, Professor Themelis, a renowned archaeologist from the University of Crete, Counselor Yi Ning of the Chinese Embassy in Greece, as well as more than 300 local audiences.

In his opening speech, Mr. Anastasopoulos noted that both China and Greece are famous for their time-honored history and civilization, reflected especially in their rich heritage of great drama works. Many people in Meseni are fond of drama and Chinese culture, and he hoped to have more exchanges with China to maintain the deep friendship between Chinese and Greeks.

Counselor Yi Ning expressed her gratitude to the committee for providing an excellent platform for cross-



culture communication.

She also hoped that the participants from Peking University would make good use of this valuable opportunity to make further cultural cooperation endeavors between China and Greece.

The performance soon began and the audience could immediately sense the solemnity of the great classical tragedy, which have been painstakingly prepared and presented by Peking University students on the stage. Although language was a barrier, the local audience was still able to grasp the meaning of the play as a whole due to the actors who were engaged in their roles. At the climax of the show, some people were even moved to tears. All the students were given high praise after the outstanding performance, and were surrounded by the local people who were eager to chat and take photos with them. The Vice Mayor of Meseni commented that it was gratifying to witness such a wonderful performance in this year's International Youth Classical Drama Festival delivered by students from Peking University, which he regarded as one of the best he had watched.

Oedipus the King, also called Oedipus Rex, is the second of Sophocles' three Theban plays, and chronicles the story of Oedipus, a man who becomes the king of Thebes while in the process unwittingly fulfills a prophecy that he would murder his father Laius, and marry his mother Jocasta. The play is regarded as an example of a classic tragedy, noticeably containing an emphasis on how Oedipus's own faults contributing to the tragic hero's downfall, as opposed to having fate be the sole cause. It has gained its popularity




over the centuries and people from all over the world now contemplate the everlasting theme through various languages.

The version presented by Peking University students was adapted and directed by the former Vice President of Central Drama Academy in Beijing, Professor Luo Jinlin, who is also a leading figure

in the study of ancient Greek drama in China. He, together with students from the drama club at Peking University, reinterpreted this classical work from a modern prospective and shortened it to be a 60-minute play. Throughout the play, traditional Chinese elements such as martial arts and Beijing opera are also employed. The adapted version of Oedipus the King simplified the theatrical scenery to make it fit for the outdoor stage in Ekklesiasterion, highlighting the inner conflicts of the core figures and the courage and heroic spirits revealed in Oedipus.

Participating in International Youth Classical Drama Festival was a rare opportunity to showcase the drama tradition of Peking University to the world. The Drama Club at Peking University was founded in 1972 by Ying Da, an undergraduate of PKU at that time, who is now a famous director in China. The annual Ju Xing Drama Competition has also become one of the most popular competitions at Peking University.

The performers of Oedipus the King were selected across different faculties and ages at Peking University. This was the first time Chinese university students put up a show in Ekklesiasterion, the site of an ancient Greek theater originally established in the third century BC. The site was discovered and rebuilt by archaeologists in the 1980s. The performance can indeed be regarded as an important cultural exchange experience between Chinese and Greek youth in the headstream of western drama culture. 

# 2014 Peking University Top Ten Singers

Chen Runxi

From the office of the Student Union, a queue extended three big loops around the dormitory area and scrawled all the way to the canteen—an estimated length of more than three hundred meters. All the queuing students were there for the coveted tickets to the PKU Top Ten Singers Final. Some have waited for more than three hours under the scorching summer sun just for a chance to watch the live performance of the Final.

As one of the most popular competitions on campus, Top Ten Singer Competition is annually held around the end of April at the KhooTeckPuat stadium of Peking University, which can hold about 2,000 people. This capacity, however, is barely enough to meet the demand. This is because the show has never failed to excite in the past.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the show proved once again to be a hit. Fifteen singers and groups competed for the crown this year. The judging panel comprised of famous musicians and composers from the music industry. The show got off to a roaring start with an exhilarating opening performance by the champion of last year's Tsinghua University's Top Ten Singers Competition, as well as an exciting dance segment performed by Fenglei Crew. Showbiz stars also came to express their support for the competition. JinRunji, a finalist from the Voice of China, a TV singing competition, performed his new song Do You Still Remember. His performance ignited the hall and won enthusiastic applause from the audience.

After a grueling five-hour competition consisting of multiple elimination rounds, the group Terren Toronto emerged as champions, with Xiaolin Ma coming second and Tiantian Yang and Xi Song tying for the third place.

## Interview with the Champion Team

Terren Toronto, the champion team, consisted of five students including lead

singers Li Runshi, a local Chinese student as well as Tang Ziyu, an international student.

Jing Tong and Zhou Jin from the OIR Press Team had the opportunity to interview Terren Toronto (TT) shortly after the conclusion of the competition.

**OIR:** Did you ever think that you could be champions?

**TT:** We had never really entertained that notion, especially when our rehearsals after entering the semi-finals often turned out less than ideal. We decided to let nature take its course and just enjoy the process. We were still confident of entering into the top ten, but never did we think that we could claw our way into the top four. So it was a pleasant surprise when we saw the response of the audience and the scores given by the judges. We had never envisioned this moment.

**OIR:** Tell us more about your rehearsals.

**TT:** As we all love singing, we really enjoyed the rehearsal process. During our rehearsals, we sometimes improvise on the spot and even come up with new songs altogether!

However, we did have our trying mo-

ments. There was a member so stressed out by his lackluster performance that he quit after we floundered more than twenty times at a particular song. But later, we started to take things more seriously. We sat down and had serious talk on how to ensure that everyone turns up for rehearsals on time. Sometimes our rehearsals were really inefficient. It is usual for a group to practice ten songs in a year, but we only managed just four or five songs per year. Most importantly, we are all perhaps too distinctive in our respective fields (of music).

**OIR:** What are the greatest gains you had after forming TerrenToronto?

**Tang:** I am actually an unmotivated person, but I have changed quite a lot in the past year. Also, I encountered much difficulty when I first sang English songs. I am actually very bad at English, even though people automatically assume that I look foreign. In the past, I did not even sing English songs in KTVs, not to mention performing an English song on stage. I have improved quite a lot, thanks to everyone's help.

**Li:** My biggest gain was the change of my thought. As a team we must be able to get along well and in order to ensure our rehearsals to be efficient we must be on the same level. This is especially important for a team like ours with everyone having such distinctive music styles. If we are not of the same skill level, many problems will arise. 🍷



## Producers of “A Bite of China” Visit Peking University

Zhang Kexin



As part of the countdown to the 11<sup>th</sup> annual International Cultural Festival, the production team of the famous documentary *A Bite of China* visited Peking University on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2014. The event was held at the Sunlight Hall of Yingjie Exchange Centre. The Director, Chen Xiaoqing, Assistant Directors of four different episodes Chen lei, Hu Lei, Deng Jie, and other staff from CCTV9 Documentary Channel, were at the scene and were warmly welcomed by hundreds of students in attendance.

*A Bite of China* was first aired in May 2012. As one of the most popular documentaries in China, it was the first time that CCTV have produced a series of documentaries covering traditional Chinese cuisine. The excellent quality, high production standards and the fascinating culinary culture of China contributed to the great success of this documentary. Season one of *A Bite of China* impressed millions of people and won praise both at home and abroad. Now, the topic of Chinese cuisine is trending once again as the second season of the documentary is currently on air.

The second season saw huge im-

provement and innovation both in technique and content, which was shared by the production team with students. The team used high-definition cameras during the whole filming, and spent more than a year to complete it. In addition, season two also covers a broader geographical area, consisting of more than 30 provinces and cities in China and abroad. The production of the documentary underwent a long and stringent process. Each Assistant Directors had to decide the theme for each episode, and took charge of the individual stories in it. After conducting detailed research into the theme, the directors wrote a brief outline of the episode and then had to decide the specific characters to be focused on in the story, based on the compilation

and requirements of the project.

*A Bite of China* not only stood out due to its high-standard shooting techniques, but also for spearheading the promotion of Chinese culinary culture. Professor Wu Zhipan, Vice President of PKU said in his opening speech of the event, “Eating habit is a shortcut for us to have a close observation on a certain culture. The documentary contributes a lot, for it reveals and communicates Chinese civilization in a global scale.” Following that, the Director of CCTV9 Documentary Channel gave a brief introduction on the documentary, and provided statistics demonstrating the huge impact it had scored all over the world.

The producers also held a preview of the forth episode, *Home Cooking on scene*, which attracted and touched the students. Afterwards, Professor Yu Hong, Vice Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication and Professor Zhang Yiwu from the Department of Chinese Language and Litera-





ture delivered speeches respectively in analyzing the success and the cultural value of *A Bite of China*. The directors and producers also shared their thoughts and ideas behind the scene directly with the audience as well. With regards to the stories of the characters' life and personal experiences taking up more screen time than the food itself, the producers explained that the original purpose of the documentary is to explore the relationship between Chinese people and their food. As a result, they want to express the features of Chinese people through the uniqueness of their cooking methods. At the core of the documentary, it is the people and their emotions that really matters.

Our reporters were given the opportunity to conduct an exclusive interview with the producers and directors, who continued to share more about the ideas and values behind the documentary. When asked about the difficulties and challenges of the filming, Hu Bo emphasized that they focused on the displaying the real essence of the culinary process without staging or intervening in any of the process, "this has posed a challenge to filming schedules, since many of the cuisine requires specific seasonal ingredients and preparation process. Nonetheless, the team upheld its value of presenting the real culinary culture without any doctoring of the process."

The production team also emphasized that the documentary aimed to present a people-centric view of the ordinary life of Chinese across different provinces, using cooking as a means to appeal to the stomach, but more importantly the heart. "The focus is not on the food or eating habit, but it carries a deeper significance. I recall an interviewee who spent 40 minutes giving a detail description of how to make watermelon sauce. To her, the importance is not about the taste, but the warmth and sense of home."

With this goal in mind, the production team of *A Bite of China* sets forth to continue to produce high quality episodes that touch the hearts of millions of viewers. ▽

## Campus Dramas: "Pure Literature in Film Era"

Guo Danyang



On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the final of Peking University's Drama Star Contest was held. The two original dramas "Good Morning, Mother" and "ROAR, ROAR" were the champion and runner-up respectively. The writers of the two dramas, Tuo Lu, Bai Huiyuan, Shan Dandan are all graduate students from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at PKU. In addition, they are the co-founders of "Feng Dan Bai Lu" drama studio. This year's competition is a bumper harvest for the studio. In this interview conducted by PKU Newsletter of Teaching Promotion, the writers shared their experience in the creation of the scripts, and the difficulties and challenges they faced. They also reflected upon their passion in drama and their role in the development of campus drama.

**Reporter:** "Good morning, Mother" was praised as a masterpiece by the judges on numerous occasions. It can be seen that you had made a lot of efforts in its creation. When did you start writing the script?

**Lu:** The script had been conceived

for some years. It originated in the summer of 2011, when I went to Chongqing for a social investigation in a drug rehabilitation center for youth. I did not continue the investigation there, but the mentality of the teenagers had aroused my interest, I wanted to write a script about it. At first, I wrote a 20,000 words one-act play which could last for 2 hours, but in order to participate in the Drama Star Contest, I adapted it into a 9500 words play consisting of three acts.

**Reporter:** Did the three of you cooperate in "Good morning, Mom"?

**Lu:** They offered me a lot of important inputs. Dandan's point was that the mother should not be a strong woman in every perspective, but should confront unfair and difficulties in the workplace, as female scholars will need ten times the effort that men need to prove their ability. Adding the complexity of the mother constituted an inner world connection sharing shame and darkness, which reached sympathy based on the understanding of each other. So, in the final version,

the noble and elegant mother dissected her own weakness for the first time.

**Bai:** I am the producer of this play, and what I did was to recommend actors and directors to the crew. The actor played the son, Sheng Yuanfei, is renowned at PKU as one of the best actors in the drama contest. My recommendation of him was because I think he is the rare actor at PKU who can perform the character of wicked. In contrary, Fan Zijin, who played the mother, was like a blank sheet of paper. I think she was very relaxed when she was acting, so I introduced her to Lu. As for the director Zu Jiyun, I think she has a precise understanding of art, which has shown through the excellent use of the elements of painting. She was always very demanding for herself, and had made arduous efforts to realize her ideas.

**Reporter:** We also found that the dramas in final four were all concerning the tense relationship between father and son. Does this mean there was an obvious consciousness about it in campus play's creation?

**Bai:** This is an unavoidable fact for every person of our generation. It's related to the experience of growing up as the only child. The reason why we focused on this topic is a probable indication that we are sincere in returning to our own life experience.

**Lu:** It also has something to do with our age and life experience. For us, the "birth experience" may be richer than "life experience", so we have a deeper and clearer recognition for ourselves. Maybe we will conceive new thoughts after we enter the society, but the very first step of going beyond the campus drama, is getting to know more about our father generation.

Maybe we will conceive new thoughts after we enter the society, but the very first step of going beyond the campus drama, is getting to know more about our father generation.

**Reporter:** "ROAR, ROAR" seems to be too complex for a campus play. How did you design the drama structure?

**Bai:** The reason why I wrote in such a way was due to some comments I received during last year's competition. For the drama "Mahjong" which I wrote and directed last year, a judge said that the campus stage was not suitable for realistic dramas, and he hoped to see more fresh campus dramas. I do not agree with him. So I decide to prove that he is wrong through this work, that campus dramas should not be just a light and fresh white T-shirt and jeans, and it can consist of violence, blood and murder. My scripts start from the campus, but would never stop within the campus. "Campus drama" should not be fixed in pattern or category, and I just wanted to write an anti-traditional campus drama.

**Reporter:** This play was not revealed until the semi-finals. It must be hard to choose actors, and for actors to get used to each other and cooperate tacitly in so short a time.

**Bai:** I was the judge during the preliminaries, which offered me opportunities to see more actors. Gao Yuan, the actress who played the role of the lion went with the best supporting actress in one of the sub match. Her voice and her physical performance were impressive. However, their play did not make it to the semi-finals, so Dandan and I invited her to join in our crew, and the result proved that we made the right pick.

**Bai:** We got inspiration from a short story written by Dandan called "Ma di Tau of Tuanjie Lake", which can now be read from the website Douban. I wrote the script with Dan because I

had great respect for her and her writing ability. So, I wrote the first draft of the script, and Dan polished it into the second draft, and then we rewrote it together for more than 10 times, so we are both the first authors.

**Reporter:** Which part of this novel moves you?

**Bai:** There is a detail in this short story, which I think could only be written by a woman, that a girl who left home and worked in Beijing was watching a TV documentary at home. The documentary told a story of the last lion in Zambia National Park whose families were all shot dead by poachers. She was lonely and fell in love with the wild animal photographer who was the only living creature around. Every night she roared on the plain. Later, the girl broke up with her boyfriend, and she dreamed of being a lion, chasing after the scientists' car. The scene impressed me very much. There was a distinct feminist stance of using the lion as a metaphor for female, for it emphasized her dignity, but she is still an animal. There was also a stance of Foucault; her "savage" is defined as savage, reflecting that female did not get the position of human being in society. So this symbol is also critical.

**Reporter:** How did Dan get the idea of this detail?

**Dan:** This was kind of my personal experience. At that time I interned at a newspaper and was feeling bored, and that is when I imagined the terrible loneliness I would feel if I keep going on the path. Then, I saw "The Last Lion", and in the documentary, the narrator said that Ma di Tau was actually very lonely both psychological and physiological. In fact, this turned out to be a motif of "ROAR ROAR". Bai later came up with the point of "splice", and I did not regard it as a gimmick, for everyone knows what it means. Its psychological demands cannot be satisfied either. Maybe all of the craziness was an illusion because his lack of satisfaction. He finally got on the "normal" way of life.

“Campus drama” should not be fixed in pattern or category, and I just wanted to write an anti-traditional campus drama.

**Reporter:** But “splice” still aroused strong reaction from the audience. There was lots of laughter under the stage. Was this what you have expected?

**Bai:** I was satisfied with the audience’s responses. Of course there will be some obstacles of accepting at first. During the last scene, no one laughed, and some even cried, which meant we had successfully established a set of rules within the play. I understand that the confident expression of human-beast relationship in this drama had challenged some people’s ethic boundaries, but to be honest, I felt good about challenging morality.

**Dan:** Actually, the love between human and beast was a serious topic in this play, for if there was never an equal relation between men and women, how can we discuss love? Is this kind of love possible?

**Reporter:** The play was quite different from Dan’s original short story. Where else did you get the inspiration for the play?

**Bai:** Besides the short story, the thought of “anti-campus drama” has also played an important role, which reflected in the drama as Ban Ma was doing experiment and writing thesis under the father’s pressure. I started writing the play when the winter vacation began. My mother was worried that I could not find a job, and I was under great pressure as well, talking with my mother during the day and writing the script at night. The creation process was very tiring. When I was unable to carry on writing, I slipped out and had a walk in a world of ice and snow. Song Dongye’s song “Zebra, Zebra” is also the original inspiration of this play. The first time I listened to it in my hometown, I cried and was really moved. I would also like to mention the influence of the Spanish direc-

tor Almodovar, who is accustomed to many taboos of ethics. Just like *Todo sobre mi madre*, although there are taboos of transsexuals and AIDS, the eternal message of motherhood is still touching. The high degree of tolerance and acceptance to unconventional ethics is a real symbol of civilization. There is a scene in his *The Skin I Live In*. In that the man who tries to assault wore a sexy and cute tiger-skin suits, which even suspenses the moral judgment. There must be passion first and thought later.

**Dan:** I mainly changed the scenes of lovers and father. The father in this play is a humanities professor who indulged in the spiritual world and struggled in reality. So we designed the father to sit in a wheelchair so that his action was limited. Besides, I also spent a lot of time constructing his death scene. I felt that something must happen on him before he died. The courage he showed when he met Sphinx reflects the difference between him and his son. The son locked himself into the cage, while the old man went out of the cage and confronted Sphinx and made the speech before he died, which made us cried during rehearsals.

**Reporter:** Using the chorus to leave footprints on him to symbolize the lion bite and the lion’s kiss of death were wonderful as well.

**Bai:** I think that is where I learnt from Dan and where I made my progress from last year to this year. Last year’s “Mahjong” was strong on concept but flat on characters. But this time the characters were much more complex, which could easily bring the audience into the right mood. The character that we changed most is Ban Ma who was just like ourselves. In fact, the weaker the character is, the more difficult to shape. 🐾

## Guardian Angels of PKU’s Stray Cats

Wang Chao



Hardly anyone would not be entertained by the furry cats strolling or basking lazily in the warm afternoon sunlight on the campus of Peking University. As the members of the “Lost Angel”, a voluntary student association at PKU that cares for stray cats on campus, put it, the stray cats are ‘lost angels’. The association’s major mission is to care for the docile feline creatures that were rescued after being abandoned by their owners and now roam on the campus.

### Caring for the Cats

The number of recorded cats living on campus is in the vicinity of 80, a drop from the recorded 100 in 2012. However, the actual number is probably twice the recorded number. Most of the cats keep their distance from humans, which implies that the cats that are frequently spotted only make up a small percentage of the actual cat population on campus.

One of the daily routines, and probably the most well-known activity of the Lost Angel Association engages in is feeding the cats. Every afternoon, members of the Lost Angel Association will spend nearly an hour walking to the various locations where the cats commonly assemble, and leave cat food for them. There is a prevalent notion among students that the Lost Angel Association feeds the cats so well that they have become plump. Yet, many more are in fact much thinner and suffer from malnutrition. In many cases, cats that are smaller in size fail to compete with the stronger cats for the food that Lost Angel Association leaves behind.

Many of the cats are afraid of humans,



presenting another major obstacle to the Association's efforts. Mo Chengxian, Director of Campus Affair Department of the Lost Angel Association, recalls that a cat named Lychee was badly ill, but several attempts to send her for medical treatment failed as Lychee was too afraid of human contact. When the Association members finally got near her, it was already too late. Lychee passed away on the way to the vet.

Stray cats face various dangers on a daily basis. Hunger and illness are some of the major threats to their survival. Conflicts with stray dogs also resulted in a sharp decline in the campus cat population. While on their daily rounds to feed the cats, association members will keep an eye on abnormalities that the cats may display. When common symptoms of illnesses such as oral diseases or auricular mites are detected, the afflicted cats will be taken to nearby vet clinics as soon as possible. Many NGOs that work with stray animals will usually

take into consideration the efficiency of money spent on medical treatment, and sometimes this means giving up on seriously ill cats. In contrast, the Lost Angel Association tries their best to provide for each individual treatment, partly due to the relatively smaller cat population on campus. Fortunately, it is rare that such serious cases occur.

### Controversy and Dilemma

Contrary to popular belief, the primary goal of the Lost Angel Association is not to protect the stray cats, but to control the population in order to maintain the balance between animals and humans, as well as to ensure the survival of the current cat population on campus. As Mo Chengxia explains, this is in accordance with a standard known as Catch Neuter Return (CNR), which has been adopted by many well-organized NGOs, including the American Society

for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Studies have been conducted to gauge the effectiveness of CNR show that the procedure works to trim the population of cats, and at the same time mediate the conflicts that frequently take place between humans and animals. In addition, Mo believes that CNR is beneficial to cats as well. "Cats born in the wild can hardly survive," said Mo, "They are usually a huge burden to their mothers, since they are already exceptionally weak after birth but still have to care for the young. Moreover, neutered female cats often lead a healthier life, as they have a lower risk of uterus lesion. Rutting cats will make a lot of noises, and male cats are very likely to make a mess by peeing all around campus."

Admittedly, the humanitarian aspect of CNR is still controversial. However, the voices of opposition do not have a better solution for the complex problems of stray cats either. Sadly, CNR is the choice that poses the least harm for ev-

eryone.

Apart from the work described, the Lost Angel Association also seeks human families for healthy cats that interact well with humans. The information is posted on a website called Movshow. The Association will assess the credibility of people who show interest in adoption, and will urge them to provide an appropriate living environment for the cats. The selection of adopters is a discreet and difficult process. "We interview applicants. If some of our conditions for adoption are not met, or if we get the impression that the applicant just wants the cat on a whim, then we will not approve the application," said Mo.

### Doing as Much as They can

Groups like the Lost Angel Association are often frustrated by the lack of funds. For instance, the cats should ideally be fed twice a day. However, the lack of funds (and manpower) result in only a single meal for the cats each day. In addition, only the cheapest cat food can be afforded. Fortunately, the Association can still make ends meet. Donations from the public are the main source of the Association's finances, together with help given by some larger organizations. For instance, Lucky Cats, a Beijing-based volunteer group, as well as China Small Animal Protection Association had imparted experiences and donated kitty litter boxes to the Lost Angel Association.

Though members of the Lost Angel Association try their best to care for those creatures, reality often hits hard. Many lives have come and gone, with little that the Association could do. Mo still ponders on what the former President of the Association said to her when she first entered the Association, as it remains etched in her mind. "One day, when you truly understand the situation we are in, a sense of powerlessness will probably haunt your heart. Hard as it may be, we still have to do as much as we can."

The future of stray cats remains bright, because their guardian angels are doing as much as they can. 🐾

## Turning the Wheel of Seasons

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show by the PKU Dance Sport Association

Liu Susu

With intense preparation throughout the semester, continuous training for 40 days, the PKU Dance Sport Association put up a performance with the title of Flipped for the Dance in May, in which contains a team of 7 coaches and 100 performers, and 21 wonderful segments for 500 audiences. With the segments arranged in the order of the seasons, each performance tells a different story, be it a love fantasy, an adventure or even a seemingly ridiculous dream. The show also featured performances by students outside of the Dance Sport Association, including a Mongolia dance segment performed by the PKU Dance Team.

### Feng Xuehan – A Multifaceted Performer

Having learned ballroom dancing for 7 years, Feng Xuehan can be said to be a veteran performer. She earned her bachelor degree at Beijing Sport University and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Sports Humanistic Sociology at Peking University. This year, she served as both the host and performer of the show. Through the two elaborately choreographed dances that she put up, which consisted of a modern Foxtrot routine, as well as a cha-cha-cha segment, she fully demonstrated her virtuosity and passion for ballroom dancing in her performance.

For the foxtrot dance, the background was set to be in the period of the Republic of China. Feng portrayed a girl who is desperately longing for her missing lover, to the extent that she contemplated ending her life by hanging herself with a white silk cloth. In the midst of her anguish, she fell asleep and had a dream. In the dream, her beloved man returned, and they danced together in happiness. As the music became faint and the light grew dim, the girl woke up in surprise.

Looking around, she realized that her lover was gone, along with the white silk cloth that she intended to commit suicide with. Moved but at the same time frustrated, the girl tried, in vain, to locate them again.

In her cha-cha-cha performance, Feng takes the lead, which is a part usually reserved for the man. Feng plays a man who is deeply attracted by the nurse, but caught by the doctors in time. The dramatic story, comedic music, and exhilarating choreography made this performance an unforgettable one for all of the audience. Through this segment, Feng exhibited a different side of her inner character, which is full of passion and forcefulness.



## Cen Cheng – A Doctor Who can Hit the Dance Floor

Cen Cheng is a medical student who is not contented with just spending her days in the lab. Her feet will move automatically whenever the music begins to play. Cen has taken up Latin for more than 5 years. In this year's show, she put up three dance segments, "Runaway Baby" (a Jive dance), "Carmen Fantasy" (a Paso Doble dance) and "Who" (a Rumba dance), demonstrating her excellence in the various styles of Latin dance. In addition, Cen switched dancing partners for each different routine, adding to the difficulty of her segments.

"Runaway Baby" was presented with the accompaniment of merry music. Cen was dressed in a striking pink skirt, which was matched with a big pink bow that added youthful vigor to her and the performance.

You may have heard of the story of Carmen and the opera, but have you watched a Latin dance adaptation of Carmen before? Based on the story of Carmen, "Carmen Fantasy" is a story about an obstinate yet charming gypsy girl and a brave matador. Through the powerful music and dance, Cen's performance painted a vivid image of Carmen to the audience.

In Cen's third and final dance routine, she and her third dancing partner presented the audience with a heart-broken

love story in a slow and soft Rumba routine, featuring the fearlessness, fragile dreams and fantasies of youth.

### Group Performances

The other performances at the show did not pale in comparison. The group dances, in particular, wowed the audience with their precise coordination and dancing prowess. The opening show featured a tango dance named "The Last Snow Blossom". The fast tempo created an energy-charged atmosphere, as female dancers swirled like falling snowflakes in their long white dresses.

The second annual performance of the PKU Dance Sport Association ended with "Goodbye My Youth", the Latin Jive group dance that sought to portray the various moods that one goes through during the period of youth, including that of happiness, excitement, surprise, fear and sadness. Many in the audience were visibly affected by the somber atmosphere, making it a perfect final piece to conclude the show.

"I came here expecting to see a students' performance, but never did I expect such professionalism!" remarked Chen Ming Juan, an audience who attended the performance for the first time. "This seems like a professional show. We look forward to an even more exciting show next year!" 🍷



My name is Heng Kang Wei and I come from the lovely sunny island of Singapore. I am currently a sophomore at the School of International Studies, and serve as the Editor-in-Chief of Peking University Newsletter, a magazine issued by Peking University Office of International Relations. This means that I am the editor in charge of the articles that you read in this very publication. It is a wonderful privilege for me to be able to take this opportunity to reflect upon my life at Peking University for the past two years, as it had indeed been an eye-opening and life changing experience to be here in China, at a time of rapid growth and massive change.

Since I first arrived at Beijing on August 2012, it has been more than 600 days. Within this short period of time, I have already witnessed so many changes in China and within Peking University itself. The efforts that had been put into modernization and development have been astonishing. To be so far away from home and to be plunged into this fast-moving environment, most of us will experience the vertigo brought about from changes. Within the university itself, there are a lot of exciting events and changes that are happening all of time, like new schemes, new programs, new research and exchange opportunities.

Till this day, I still get a lot of questions from peers about my decision to study here at Peking University. From the start, as an ethnic Chinese whose ancestors left China close to 200 years ago, there is something in my heart which have pushed me to come to this land to search for my roots. This is a unique draw for all overseas Chinese, in terms of the passion for our cultural and heritage. With China becoming an economic and political powerhouse, the condition and prospect of coming to China have never been so great as well. It can never be compared to the comfort

# At the Forefront of News: “Newsletter” Editor-in-Chief, Heng Kang Wei

*Heng Kang Wei*

of home, but the excitement and the uncertainty of the quick pace of growth can also be a charm point for us youth, who is seeking our role as global citizens. I may be wrong to say this, but I stand firm that there is no other place on Earth where you can be part of such exciting change and growth, especially when you aspire to be a responsible and well-informed global citizen.

Nonetheless, it is still an unconventional choice to choose Peking University, when my peers back home are leaving for the UK and the US for their undergraduate studies. What I gained, however, is a unique education with a strong focus on humanitarian aspect. I can sense a lot of pride with regards to the culture and heritage of Peking University and China as a whole, and this has changed the way of I look at the world.

The experience here at Peking University opens my perspective. Though I may not agree every of the views and perspectives of my professors and my peers, it is useful and enriching to be able to reflect upon the way they think about certain issues, and the difference in the values that we hold. The clash in ideas is something that we, as foreign students, can take away from, and becomes a bridge between China and our countries.

Life at Peking University is not just about academics, as I find that more of my time is spent on students' organizations and societies. Like a masked superhero, we live an alter ego through our involvements in various student organizations. The richness of PKU's student life

is exhibited by the wide variety of school activities you can participate in, with many giving you the opportunity to immerse in various aspects of PKU's unique culture.

Personally, I think that for foreign students, the involvement in various student societies is especially important to us as it provides a sense of belonging away from home. The societies become our second home where we are a part of. It also acts as a unique window for us to interact with local Chinese, working together regardless of origins and specialization. Moreover, the “role-playing” aspect is especially crucial for us, as we are able to take on different roles and responsibilities based on our interests and abilities. For there is no other opportunity once we leave schools and step into the working world, this will allow us to identify whether our passion and interest can be a future career option for us.

Here at Peking University, I was given many opportunities to explore my passion in politics and journalism. Other than my commitments here at the PKU OIR News team, I also participated in the Asian International Model United Nations (AIMUN), where I serve as the Academic Director. On top of that, I was also appointed Deputy Editor-in-Chief at the School of International Studies News Center. These societies have given me different perspectives and chances to engage in professional work. “Seek and you shall find”, if one is willing to put in the efforts to try and strive, one shall find many windows to have a fulfilling four years. More importantly,



it provided me with a deep sense of belonging to Peking University.

In particular, here at the PKU OIR News Team, we are given the unique opportunity to be at the forefront of PKU's international collaboration endeavor. Our shadows can be seen during all visitations and meetings by the school leaders with foreign guests, where we provide coverage which can be read from the OIR website and through publications such as Peking University Newsletter. We are not only at the forefront of news, but we can also provide our contribution in maintaining ties between PKU and other universities, especially for sister universities to be in touch with the various news and updates in PKU. ▽

# Hugging for Sino-Japanese Friendship

Founded by Japanese Exchange Students of Peking University

Xu Zi

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the bustling shopping district of Wangfujing in Beijing, and on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Yuyuantan Park, several Peking University's Japanese exchange students from Waseda University held signs saying "Hug to promote friendship between China and Japan". They attracted the attention of passersby, and tried to hug them. Their hugging activity has aroused wide discussion, including coverage from Japan's "Asahi Shimbun", China Daily and other media outlets.

In order to have a better understanding of this group of students, and their rationale behind organizing such an activity, our reporter spoke with members of the group, including Kenta Maruyama, Kohei Watanabe and Shizuka Maeda, all of which are exchange students from Waseda University and currently pursuing study at the School of International Relations, Peking Uni-

versity.

According to them, this "Hug Group", consisting of a total of 23 members from both Peking University and Beijing Foreign Studies University, has been set up for half a year. The hugging activity has been held twice, with the first time consisting of six people, and the second time involved eight people. In addition to free hugs, they also organized a Sino-Japanese student choir.

The students felt that the activities are very meaningful, and promoted it actively through the use of social media such as YouTube. According to them, they received numerous feedbacks from many Japanese back home, who said that they get to know China better after watching the videos.

During the interview, Kenta Maruyama shared his insights into the current Sino-Japanese relations, and the role students

can play in facilitating greater understanding between people from both countries.

**Interviewer:** What do you think the relationship between Japan and China is like?

**Kenta Maruyama:** To be honest, currently it is not looking well in terms of the political aspect. However, when we look at the economy, people to people exchanges and links between the two countries, it has not been affected. This is something to be happy about. I believe that economic interactions and people to people ties should spearhead the efforts in the improvement of ties.

**Interviewer:** In which way do you think that the "Hug Group" can help with Sino-Japanese relations?

**Kenta Maruyama:** What we are doing might not be so significant to the improvement of ties, but it highlights the importance of people to people interaction in facilitating political reconciliation. We are taking a small step to reach out to our Chinese counterparts, and we hope this small gesture will be the starting point for something bigger. This will take time and efforts to show its effect, but we do hope for the improvement of ties in future.

**Interviewer:** Do you think that there are other ways we can do to improve Sino-Japanese relations?

**Kenta Maruyama:** Other than our hugging activity, we are also organizing a Japanese-Chinese choir performance. We aim to emphasize the importance of non-political interaction and ties between the two countries and the significant role it can play to improve the relations of the two countries. People from Japan should reflect upon what they can do to reach out to people from China, and vice versa. Every small effort counts.

**Interviewer:** What kind of role do you think young people play in promoting the relationship?

**Kenta Maruyama:** Young people are





full of energy and can take the initiative and play a proactive role in organizing and participating in these outreach activities. The future is ours and we can shape positive Sino-Japanese relations for the future by starting early.

**Interviewer:** What in particular would you like other Japanese to know about China?

**Kenta Maruyama:** Contrary from what we can see online, Chinese people are quite friendly. There are a lot of negative comments online that might derail the efforts for closer people to people relationship. Generally, when you get the opportunity to interact with them, most Chinese are warm-hearted and wish to see improved Sino-Japanese relations.

**Interviewer:** Since you are going back to Japan soon after the exchange program ends, do you have any plan for the future of "Hug Group" or other activities about Japan and China?

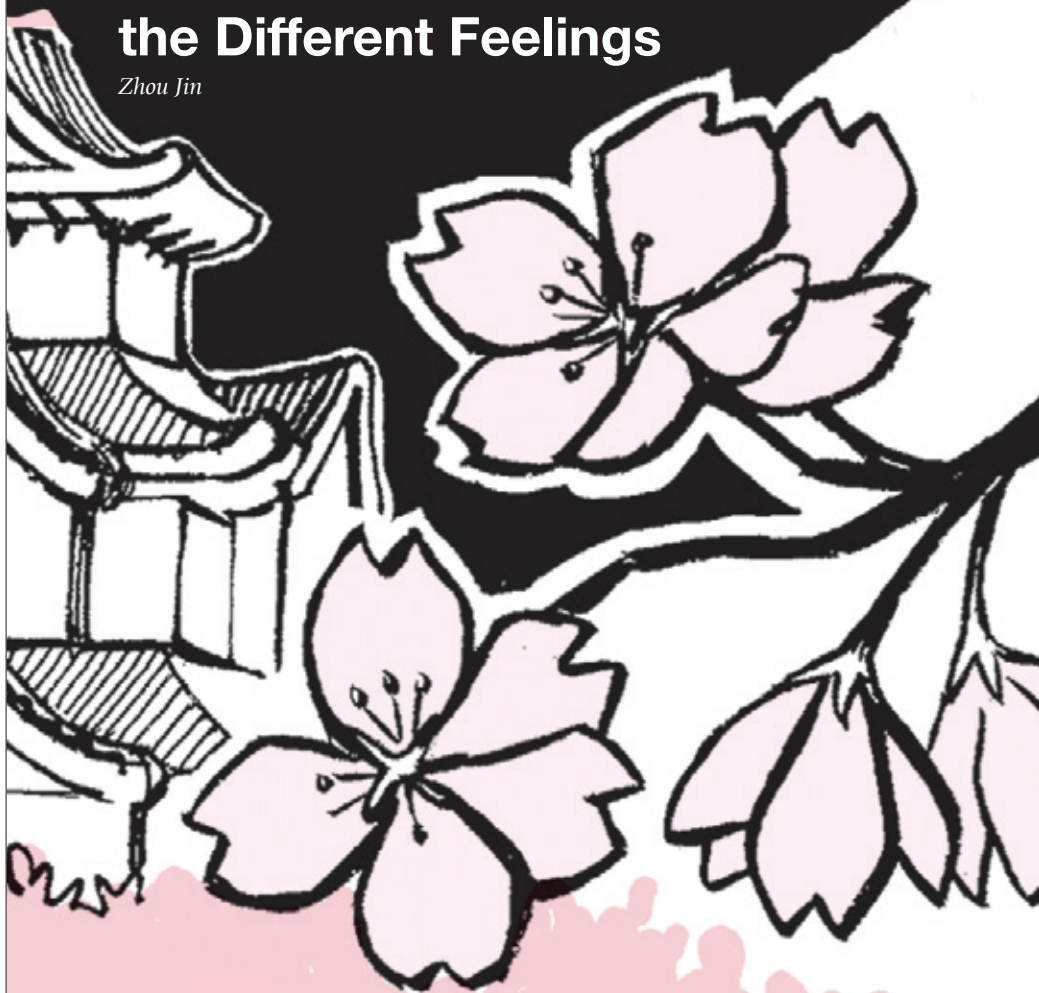
**Kenta Maruyama:** Well, what we are doing here is only a start. We do hope that our legacy can be carried on by our juniors, and that they will find new and innovative ways to reach out. The Chinese students are also very supportive of our efforts. I believe that it is a common goal for students from both countries for better relations, and such activities will be continued with such a goal in mind.

## Conclusion

To sum up, we can see that although there might be Sino-Japanese tensions, there are a lot of things that students can do to help people from both countries to better understand their counterpart. The exchange students from Waseda Universities, through their small actions, have reach out to touch the hearts of many Chinese, and at the same time enable youths from their own country to try to understand China as well. With accumulated efforts, we can look forward to better relations between China and Japan. 🍡

# My Experience at Waseda University: The Same Japan, the Different Feelings

Zhou Jin



Ge Qixi is a doctoral student from the School of Foreign Languages, Peking University. In the autumn of 2012, he went to Waseda University in Japan as an exchange student for one academic year. His research focus was on the Japanese history of thoughts. He has published several papers and has worked as an interpreter for a long period of time. Currently, he serves as a teacher for Japanese Language at Peking University and also teaches at the Beijing International Studies University. This article is about the memory of his story at Waseda, recording every piece of his life when studying abroad.

A year flies by very quickly. Studying at Waseda University in Tokyo for a year is very important experience for me. I

went to many different places and I have gotten so much from the unique experience. Every morning, I would wake up in a brand new place, and each night, I would sleep beside the neon lights.

In fact, this was the second time that I went to Japan. Compared to Kyoto, which I visited last time, Tokyo is much more of an international metropolis, and the pace of this city is much faster than Kyoto too. Every day when I walk along the streets, I will always see the bustling crowd moving forward like a hummingbird. Although I have experienced the fast pace of life in Kyoto, I still felt the tension of Japanese lifestyle right in every corner of Tokyo. The crowd gathered at the crossroads, the coats, suits and school uniforms that passed by

me in the subway station, the lights in the offices when the neon lights has been turned on..... Kyoto, Tokyo——Tokyo, Kyoto, my memory is wandering between this two cities. The most obvious thing that Tokyo differs from Kyoto is the rich cultural elements. In Tokyo, you can taste all kinds of dishes from all over the world, and at the same time, you can meet people come from any other country. For instance, some of my classmates are foreign students from China, Korea, America, Britain, Australia, Germany, French, Italia, Hungary, Russia, Romania, Republic of Lithuania and Malaysia. While interacting with them, I got to know various forms of culture such as pickles of Korea, snail feast of French, the liquor of Russia and the paintings of Romania. What surprised me most was their strong interest and curiosity in the Chinese culture. Some of them had been to China for several times to experience the characteristics of different areas of China, and some of them even could talk to me with simple Chinese! Meeting these friends who were interested in other cultures in a foreign country really enriched my life. In this city filled with strangers, they made me feel like being right at home.

As far as I am concerned, I think the following three aspects are effective for us to learn about Japan and its culture.

### Objective Evaluation

First, we must adhere to the principle of objectivity in our evaluation. On the understanding of each other, people between the two countries have enormous differences. When it comes to Japan, there are no more than two kinds of mentality . Some Chinese immediately connect Japan to the history of invasion and the present political situation, and the emotion of aversion rising naturally. On the other hand, there is also another group that has a strong preference for Japan due to his personal experience and family background. They would list things such as Japanese anime, high technology electronics, and reliable cars as the reasons for why they look at Japan fondly.

Chinese people’s emotion about Japan is quite complicated. By contrast, during my stay in Japan, the Japanese



understanding of China surprised me a lot. In my daily contact with most of the Japanese, I find that when they talk about China, there is no difference from talking about other countries. They tend to be more objective when they evaluate the Chinese, rarely mixed with strong personal feelings. By the subtle influence of this kind of idea, over time I have dismissed my suspicion that the Japanese look down on the Chinese. From the international level, it should be said that adhering to the principle of objectivity in evaluation will be more beneficial to the promotion of mutual understanding of each other.

### Respect and Love for Human as a Starting Point

The second is the respect for the people. It is not only embodied in the interpersonal communication, but also reflected in many details in life.

In Japan, for example, when you cross the road, as long as you obey the traffic rules, there is no need to look around, because all vehicles will give way to pedestrians. Traffic lights are accompanied by different voices in order to facilitate the blind to cross. Street construction is generally done in the morning and evening so as to neither disturb people, nor affect their rest. At the construction site, there will always be a security fence and

a special person to direct traffic. After the completion of the construction, there is hardly any traces left behind. Every day during school dismissal, there will be public broadcast reminding people to protect the safety of children. Living in Tokyo, you can feel the respect for the vulnerable groups in every corner of the city, and the warmth in the city of reinforced concrete. When you are rushing into the elevator, there will be a grandma with silver hair pushing the button for you with a kind smile; when you feel homesick during Christmas, the hotpot restaurant with the smell of soup and the cheerful laughter of the shop owner will ease your mind.

### Sharing Step by Step

The third is the prevailing school spirit and consciousness of sharing academic resources. As is known to all, throughout the streets you can find many Japanese second-hand bookstores which offer a wide array of books ranging from astronomy to geography for you to gulp. On the subway, you can see Japanese engage in reading rather than calling, playing their mobile phones or speaking loudly like Chinese. Ads on the subway also give priority to education, job application and cultural promotion. As long as it is not very rare material, the information in university library is easy

to approach, providing no hindrance to data collection. This subjective desire for knowledge and objective convenience of academic resources sharing are both essential factors to promote the academic prosperity of a country.

Having lived in Japan for only a year, although I have walked through the streets and alleys in Tokyo and Kyoto, but I cannot confidently say that I have grasped the pulse of the two cit-

ies. Knowing it superficially, I cannot avoid the limitations and bias. There is no doubt that Japan has a lot not that desired, such as no accommodation for principles, which sometimes give a sense of rigidity. There are also strict boundaries between people when they interact, for they valued personal space and hierarchy. Although the Japanese pay attention to the etiquette and the feelings of others, but most of the time they will

not reveal their true feelings, causing misunderstanding too.

At the end I want to say that in the process of cultural exchanges, each culture has its own cultural boundaries and subjectivity. Cultural exchange should seek common ground while reserving differences. No one is likely to point out the future direction of the two countries and the path that they should go along. ▽

## Giving

### Establishment of Tang Lixin Educational Fund

Chia Wai Kian

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a ceremony was held at Peking University to mark the donation of 1.5 million yuan by Mr. Tang Lixin, chairman of Xin Shang Group, towards the establishment of the Tang Lixin Educational Fund at PKU. The fund is divided into different kinds of scholarships and teaching awards. The Educational Fund, with its broad aims of developing talent, nurturing teachers and supporting campus culture, will support a wide range of activities such as overseas exchanges and entrepreneurial competitions.

At the ceremony, Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU, expressed his gratitude for Mr. Tang's generous donation. Professor Wang affirmed the importance of the Tang Lixin Educational Fund to the development of talents and teaching quality at PKU.

Mr. Tang Lixin, in his speech, stated that it was always his wish to contribute to the development of PKU. He argued that entrepreneurs like himself, should not only be concerned with the nation's economic progress but also shoulder the responsibility of social development. ▽



### Hong Kong Bai Xian Educational Fund Donated to Yenching Academy

Chia Wai Kian

On the eve of Peking University's 116<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Hong Kong Bai Xian Educational Fund signed a donation agreement with Peking University on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, pledging to support Yenching



Academy's infrastructure development. At the same time, Bai Xian will establish a Future Asian Leader Scholarship to fund 20 Asian students who are going to enrol in Yenching Academy and take up the Master's programme in Chinese studies.

At the ceremony, Mr. Cao Qiyong, founder and chairman of Bai Xian Educational Fund, was invited as an honorary trustee of PKU. In his speech, Mr Cao expressed his desire to work hand in hand with PKU to cultivate the next generation of elites who are able to contribute to the prosperity and stability of Chia, Asia and the world.

Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of PKU Council, and Professor Wang Enge, President of PKU, both expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the support provided by Mr. Cao and Bai Xian Educational Fund in the establishment of the Yenching Academy. ▽

#### How to Give

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### Linhuxuan (The Lakeview House)

Linhuxuan, or known as the Lakeview House, is one of the oldest cultural relics that can be found on the Yanyuan Campus. It was formerly known as Lin Feng Dai Yue Lou, which refers to the building as one that faces the breeze from Weiming Lake while waiting for the moon to appear. It received its name Linhuxuan in 1931 from Bing Xin, a well-known female writer in China.

Located on the small hill of the western side of the Weiming Lake, it is surrounded by dense vegetation to the northwest, and shielded from the glaring sun by bamboos to the south. From afar, it is almost hidden away from curious eyes with only its rooftop can be seen. While Linhuxuan may be small in its size, it has big stories to tell. It survived the destruction of the Shuchun Yuan in the 1860s, and was subsequently restored by Mr. and Mrs. George W. Currie as a form of gift to the President of Yenching University, John Leighton Stuart. In the 1920s, Linhuxuan was where Mr. Stuart stayed and received visitors. John Leighton Stuart had great influence for being a former U.S Ambassador to China, and for founding Yenching University. As an American, he spent most of his life in China. He once wrote, "For most part of my life, China is my home. I was not only born in that country but also closely linked to it and its people spiritually."

Linhuxuan was once used as the residence for the President of Peking University. Today, Linhuxuan is a reception room for university leaders to receive foreign visitors, including government leaders, experts and scholars. As the former residence of John Leighton Stuart, it also serves as a form of memorial to this great educator.



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