



Peking University

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015 / Issue 31



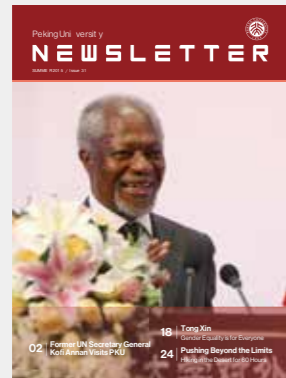
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Keynote Address by Mr. Ke



Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan Visits PKU

by Zheng Zihui

Mr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, 2001 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation, visited Peking University from April 21 to 22, 2015. This visit was made upon the invitation of Peking University Top Scholars Lecture Program and the Beijing Forum for High-End Speeches. Mr. Annan was accompanied by Mr. Lamin Sise, his Senior Adviser, and General Zaw Win, Senior Official of the United Nations Secretariat.

April 21, 2015

On the morning of April 21, Ke Yang, Executive Vice President of Peking University, welcomed Mr. Annan and his delegation. Ms. Ke reviewed the deep and long-lasting relations between Mr. Annan and Peking University. As early as 1998, Mr. Annan had sent his congratulations on the Centennial Anniversary of Peking University. In 2004, during the inaugural Beijing Forum (an international forum sponsored by PKU), he appointed Joseph Reed,

Vice Secretary General of the United Nations to convey his best wishes. In 2006, when his term as secretary-general of the United Nations was coming to an end, Mr. Annan visited Peking University for the first time.

Later that day, Mr. Annan had discussions with Peking University scholars and student representatives under the topic "Some Key Points in the World Order". The meeting was chaired by Professor Yuan Ming, Vice President of Peking University's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Other participants included, Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of the University of International Relations, Fu Jun, Executive Vice President of the School of Government, Wang Peiyu, Vice President and Director of the School of public health, Li Anshan, Head of the Africa Research Center, Lv Zhi, Director of the Natural Protection and Social Development Research Center, and scholars from other fields were also in attendance. Student representatives from the Model United Nations Association and the Student International Communications Association also attended the forum.

At the forum, Mr. Annan first shared his ideas about the tremendous changes in recent years and how the United Nations dealt with the challenges. Mr. Annan also emphasized the importance and necessity of strengthening international cooperation in various aspects. Scholars of various fields then shared their views on the current world order and posed questions to Mr. Annan. The attending students also had the chance to voice their thoughts.

Mr. Annan said that it was a pleasure to be invited and that he was deeply impressed by Peking University students. Judging from the questions they raised, students have put much thought into issues regarding international affairs and human civilization.

He hopes to visit Peking University again in the future and expressed his best wishes for the Beijing Forum. Finally, Zhu Shanlu, President of the PKU Council presented

eliminating conflicts, fighting poverty and said that his contributions would never be forgotten. Mr. Annan then gave his keynote speech: "Towards a More Harmonious



I was inspired by Mr. Annan's speech, especially when he talked about youth leadership. He said to us that it's never too early to start things, and I agree completely.



Mr. Annan with a set of commemorative envelopes jointly issued by the United Nations Postal Department, the Beijing Forum, and the Chinese Philatelic Corporation.

World Order".

As the UN secretary-general from 1997 to 2006, Mr. Annan said that his main role "was to try to maintain or bring harmony among states and even within countries that have fallen into violent conflict". Throughout his years of governance at the UN, he has "arrived at the conviction that harmony is grounded on three, mutually-supporting pillars", the three pillars being "Peace



April 22, 2015

On April 22, Lin Jianhua, President of Peking University presented Mr. Annan with the "Peking University Top Scholars Lecture Plan" medal and certificate. President Lin Jianhua paid his tribute to Mr. Annan for his effort in

and Security", "Sustainable and Inclusive Development", "Human Rights and the Rule of Law".

Great progress has been made regarding "Peace and Security". "In historical terms, the world has seldom been as peaceful," Mr. Annan maintained. There has not

been conflict between major powers for over a decade. Yet not far beneath the surface, international order is churning. After the financial crisis in 2007-2008 and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, western countries have shown signs of disengagement and retrenchment. While ancient civilizations like China and India are “reclaiming their historic place in world affairs”. The world is reshuffling, and this is why international cooperation is vital to managing the changes.

“Sustainable and Inclusive Development” means to develop while “improving the lives of billions of people in the process”. Mr. Annan explained that “China is at the heart of it, having achieved extraordinary economic

achievement of the UN’s Millennium Development Goals.

A full and non-selective respect towards “Human Rights and the Rule of Law” is also an important pillar of a harmonious world. Human rights are often seen as western luxuries that contribute little to economic growth. Mr. Annan pointed that in 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations had already proclaimed the Universal Declaration on Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

In his conclusion, Mr. Annan shared his thoughts on China. He believed that as the economy develops and the scope of foreign trade increases, it is in China’s interest to see a more

“prosperous and peaceful world based on common rules of international trade, investment, and market-based exchange rates”. When addressing threats to global peace and property, as well as climate change and other global issues, China should play a more important

role and take on more responsibilities. Mr. Annan is in favor of China’s recent banning of carbon emissions

as an important step in this direction.

After his keynote speech, Mr. Annan responded to questions from the audience on issues such as climate change, technology transfer, gender issues, and peacekeeping operations.

“An Experienced and Wise Grandfather”

Despite his years at the helm of the United Nations, Mr. Annan was as amiable as ever.

Weiwei, a sophomore student at the PKU Health Centre, said: “I was so impressed by the peaceful power, strong will, and positive hope that emanated from Mr. Annan’s speech. From it, I could feel his care and encouragement for the younger generation, as if I was listening to the nuggets of wisdom from an experienced and wise grandfather.”

Wei was not the only one inspired by Mr. Annan. Ami Higuchi, a freshman at the School of International Studies, felt the same, “I was honored to meet one of the most influential people in the world, Mr. Annan. I was inspired by Mr. Annan’s speech, especially when he talked about youth leadership. He said to us that it’s never too early to start things, and I agree completely.” ■

Armenian President Visits PKU

► Yuan Yating

The President of the Republic of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, led a delegation to visit Peking University (PKU) on the morning of March 27, 2015. Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of PKU Council and Lin Jianhua, President of PKU received the guests at the Yingjie Overseas Exchange Center. President Sargsyan was awarded the title of honorary professor and delivered a speech on the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia.

Friendships and Cooperation

Chairman Zhu extended a warm welcome to President Sargsyan and his delegation. He spoke of the fruitful talk between President Sargsyan and China’s President Xi Jinping, and he said that he believed that educational and cultural exchanges between two countries has reached a new stage due to President Sargsyan’s visit to China—the first for the president. He praised President Sargsyan for attaching great importance to education and pointed out that many young people from Armenia are now studying in Peking University.

President Lin stated that both China and Armenia are



countries with long history and ancient traditions. During the times of the old Silk Road, Armenia was a flourishing station that fostered a long-standing link between the south line and north line. Armenia’s government has viewed Xi Jinping’s plan on rebuilding the Silk Road favorably; Armenia is considered a significant node of the China Silk Road Economic Zone. There is no doubt that this will encourage collaboration between two countries in various fields, especially in education, technology, and culture.

During President Sargsyan’s speech, he detailed the deep and lasting friendship between Armenia and China. China was one of the first countries to

establish diplomatic relations with Armenia. “We hold China in special respect since Chinese people always endeavor to protect their cultural traditions and legacy,” he said, “China also devotes itself to the reform and has chosen a correct way of development which brings great achievements and economic prosperity.”

China has always sought to improve friendly relations with different countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Cooperation between Armenia and China has always played a vital role in Armenia’s diplomatic policy and it benefits a great number of Armenians. “In recent years, we have received wholehearted support from the Chinese government and people. We



growth over the last thirty-five years.” China has lifted many of its people out of poverty, contributing to the

also overcame economic hardships during periods of change and transition with China's help and achieved enormous developments." During this visit, President Sargsyan signed a series of agreements with President Xi Jinping, with the aim of promoting political dialogues, strengthening the relationship between two countries' leaders, and encouraging collaboration in all kinds of areas, including trade, infrastructure, culture, education, and tourism.

“In recent years, we have received wholehearted support from the Chinese government and people.”

“Armenia's railway goes through the Silk Road Zone. I hope that this railway can accelerate our economic cooperation with China” he told the audience, “Besides, Armenia warmly welcomes Chinese enterprises to build the Armenia-Iran railway, ensuring a balanced development of the region. It can also facilitate China's economic affairs in the Caucasus region, which will successfully cement Sino-Armenia relationship.” He especially stressed the two nations' consociation in terms of humanities education and invoked the example of the new Confucius Institute in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Principles behind Armenia's Foreign Policies

“When drafting our foreign policies, what Armenia defends is not only our own strategic interests but the security and stability of the whole world as well,” said President Sargsyan, “It is due to this consistent diplomatic policy that Armenia is now a reliable cooperative partner and its standpoints are highly valued by the global society. Our diplomatic policies have their roots in

trust, mutual benefit, and taking common responsibility. Our responsibility is to protect the political stability and economic development of a region and adopt an open attitude towards developing friendly relations with various countries in the world.”

The president said that when the region and the world are not peaceful, the chaos that ensues will inevitably harm Armenia's development. “As a result, we pay special attention to international cooperation in order to strengthen international security. Wars, extremism, and violence contribute nothing to solving the problem,” he said, “We should make every effort to keep the stability and safety of our nation.”

“One important principle of Armenia's foreign policy is to take into account the overall interests of our

surrounding security system. It absolutely cannot be just words. As strategic partners and allies, Armenia and Russia have signed a treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, which is an important aspect of maintaining Armenia's security,” said President Sargsyan, “At the same time, we also try to establish a relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), taking part in safeguarding the security and stability of Kosovo, Afghanistan, and the State of Libya. Another important way for Armenia to maintain its security is to strengthen relations with its direct neighbors, such as Georgia and Iran.”

“On January 2, 2015, Armenia joined the Eurasian Economic Union, which presents a new prospect for our economic development and creates good conditions for attracting foreign investments. Considering historical relationships, a great number of Armenian expatriates and the geopolitical and economic interests, we are committed to consolidating our relationships with Middle Eastern countries. On the other hand, Asia Pacific countries as a whole have become a new center of world politics, so forwarding our friendly relations with these countries is also one of the directions of Armenia's foreign policy.” ■



Hopping Around Campus

► Jessica Benjamin

My second semester at “Beida” (a nickname for Peking University), was slightly different from what I expected. When I was volunteering on a farm in rural Sichuan during Spring Festival, I slipped and tore the ligaments in my ankle and knee. The doctor told me to rest up and use crutches for the next five weeks. At first, I was quite devastated that I could no longer do the things I love: running, rock climbing, and Kung Fu. Leading my daily life was also a huge challenge. However, as

I gradually adjusted to using crutches, I realised the positive things that I could gain from this experience.

Last semester was a blur of activities; I would dash around campus on my bicycle, eat lunch with my friends at the canteen, practice Kung Fu, or exercise on the running track until late in the evening. Even my weekends were spent hiking with “Shan Ying She” (PKU's “Mountain Eagles” Mountaineering Society) – there was such an abundance of activities! However, due to my untimely injury, my busy

life was turned upside down and campus life became very different.

Instead of rushing around campus on my bike, I was reduced to slowly hopping along on my crutches. My first time in the canteen with crutches was a little overwhelming. People were rushing here and there, and I was so afraid that I might slip and fall. I also had a problem – how would I carry my tray? I needed both hands to use my crutches so there was no way I could carry it. Luckily, almost every time this problem

arose, someone helped me. At lunch, my classmates bought food for me and delivered it to my table. Whenever I was

“ I never appreciated how useful it is to have two working legs until I was on crutches. Very simple tasks such as taking a shower or making a cup of tea suddenly become a huge challenge for me. ”

struggling to walk upstairs or open doors, passers-by would come to my aid.

It is interesting that an unfortunate injury became a chance to experience the kindness and thoughtfulness of Peking University students. My teachers and fellow students were always willing to help me, whether it was holding open a door for me or helping me climb the stairs. Hopping around campus on crutches actually became an opportunity to meet new people and experience many simple acts of kindness.

I never appreciated how useful it is to have two working legs until I was on crutches. Very simple tasks such as taking a shower or making a cup of tea suddenly become a huge challenge for me. Being on crutches in China is especially difficult. Not every building has a ramp or an elevator for disabled people. Perhaps the most

inconvenient of all is trying to use the Chinese squat-toilets on one leg! Travelling to PKU every day to attend lessons also posed a problem, especially since I lived 30 minutes away from school by bicycle. Every morning I had class at 8am, and my only option was to brave the rush hour traffic on one leg. It is almost impossible

to find an empty taxi at 7am near my home, so I had to take the public buses. Even as early as 6:30am the buses were packed with people. At first I was worried, however, Beijing people were happy to help me onto the bus and even gave up their seats so that I could sit.

After my rather stressful journey to campus, I was always happy to arrive at Beida. Every morning, I would buy myself some breakfast at the canteen, however, one morning my card had no money – not even enough for a cup of soy milk! I began to hop sadly away. Then I heard a shout and footsteps behind me. A girl caught up with me and thrust a cup of soya milk into my hand. Little acts of kindness like this made me feel a lot more optimistic about my predicament.

The greatest act of kindness I experienced was from my host family in Sichuan. I spent Spring Festival volunteering

on a pig farm in rural Sichuan. Living in rural China was an exciting experience and also the perfect way to enjoy the festivities of the Chinese New Year. However, it was in this beautiful setting that I tripped and injured my leg. The farm family took excellent care of me: they accompanied me to hospital, carried me around the house and cooked excellent food to cheer me up! The owner of the farm was in fact an alumnus of PKU. After hearing the news of my injury, he immediately bought a plane ticket from Mianyang to Beijing and accompanied me on the flight. I could not be more grateful towards my farm family and their kindness towards me. Experiencing the kindness of Chinese people, especially Beida students, has been the positive aspect of my unfortunate injury.

Another positive aspect of my injury was that it actually gave me the chance to try new

things that I would never have tried otherwise. Before my injury, I spent all my leisure time playing sports but due to my injury I needed to rest for three months. At first I was quite depressed, and ended up sitting in my flat all day with nothing to do. However,

I decided to embrace the opportunity and use it as a chance to try new activities. At the PKU societies fair, I signed up for many new activities that do not involve sports! My injury gave me a chance to learn to play a musical instrument, read books, and

take part in cultural exchange groups.

As they say, ‘Every black cloud has a silver lining’. Ironically, hopping around campus has actually opened up new opportunities, created new friendships, and ultimately made me a stronger person. ■



A Malaysian Living in PKU

► Ng Min Cheng



Most of us Malaysians studying at Peking University (PKU) are Chinese, but we do not emphasize our race: we all are Malaysians coming from the same country. People of all races in Malaysia live in harmony and with respect, speaking mostly in Bahasa Melayu when chatting between different races and inviting those from other races to

their wedding ceremonies and New Year’s “open house” as well. The only moment I told someone I’m a Chinese is when I answer their questions: Why do you speak Chinese well? I always tell them, Malaysia is a multi-cultural country and we often speak three languages including Chinese. In Malaysia, I usually speak Chinese so I’m not hindered by a language barrier here at

PKU. However, I am still an international student and the way I grew up is totally different with that of local Chinese students, which results in some culture shock between my experiences back in Malaysia and my experiences here in China.

One of the biggest culture shocks in China was when I went to the public bathroom in Khoo Teck Puat Gymnasium for the

first time, and that’s because I was born in a country where public showers provide much more privacy to each person—you can’t see everyone and everything while showering. Malaysia is hot because it is located near the equator, so I have to shower almost every day, and I have to deal with the public showers regularly. Luckily for me, I spend most of my time with

local Chinese friends, and in throughout these difficulties, my Chinese friends help me a lot. They share their stories and knowledge, tell me about China, introduce delicious cuisine to me, and help me adapt to my new environment.

After experiencing and adapting to the culture shock, I started to love this city and her culture, and I began to truly love my college, the School of Journalism and Communication. The School's teachers and classmates get along well with each other and treat each other as family. My most unforgettable memory in PKU is the time my classmates and I traveled to Qing Long Xia. The weather was still cold but we considered the trip to be our "spring outing". I will always remember that after enjoying our barbecue for dinner, we huddled around

the campfire and counted stars in the beautiful night. That day, we walked around the tourist attractions and kept on taking photographs and selfies nonstop. In the night, we played all kinds of games, too. That was the craziest night I have ever had in my freshman year. Guys and girls were drinking and playing mahjong; and others played snooker and ping pong.

Studying in PKU is an excellent experience. I met with many famous people and listened to their speeches. I gained a lot from these events. Most of the talks discussing interesting topics also helped me think outside of the box. Furthermore, I took part in my college's student union and served as a secretary. I spent my second year mostly with this student union, which was full of happiness and hardship.

For example, we threw a New Year's party last semester, and we had countless meetings and things we had to accomplish in order to prepare for the party. I was responsible for the video clips of the new-year blessing from teachers and students, which took me a lot of time to finish it. Despite the hard work, I feel that I gained so much from this experience. Memories and everything I learnt from the preparation of that party make me appreciate and cherish my time at PKU.

Life in Beijing and the way of education in PKU differ from what I have experienced in Malaysia. The biggest difference between PKU and my high school in Malaysia is that my high school encouraged students to participate in club events, so they required students to attend those activities once a week. However, at PKU, everything is voluntary—the student chooses for himself/herself whether to take part in a student club or not. Furthermore, students are free to choose their associations and there is no need to attend its every activity. For example, I joined four different clubs in the first semester and changed to other clubs during the following semester. Although I am a member of these clubs, I do not attend most of the activities because my schedule was just too busy.



Ultimately, the association that I participate in the most is the student union of the School of Journalism and Communication.

Besides absorbing Beijing and Chinese culture here at PKU, we Malaysians also try our best to spread our own culture throughout campus, especially during the annual PKU International Culture Festival, where international

students from over 100 countries set up their own booths and showcase their cultures and cuisines. In my freshman year, I helped by preparing curry for the food stand at the International Culture Festival. During the International Culture Festival of my sophomore year, I showcased everything "Malaysian": I did this through photos, with the Malaysian

game "congkak", and with the hand decorations called "henna inai" which attracted a long queue at the Malaysia booth..

Spending time at PKU makes me feel happy. In the beginning, everything was new and challenging, but now everything has become familiar to me. Indeed, getting a chance to study at PKU for four years is a precious opportunity for me to better know the world. ■

Not a Different Quack International Students in Chinese Dorms

► *Andrew Mao*

The State of Living

Residence building 36, located on the south end of Peking University, looks like a typical six-story residential complex, yet it is a unique dormitory where different worlds meet. Thanks to Yuan Pei College's new housing policy, international students can apply to live on campus with their Chinese peers. This policy was enacted last year, and thus far, twelve freshmen from three continents have chosen to call this place "home".

It seems reasonable that Yuan Pei College has been designated as the "testing

grounds" for this pilot program. For starters, it is already an experimental field for liberal education; Yuanpei students can take courses from any department, and choose their major from more than thirty disciplines. The Yuan Pei dorm is the only place on campus where a student majoring in – say, mathematics – would share a bunk bed with a student majoring in international relations (as is the case in my dorm), which creates an interesting environment.

Other international students do not currently have the option of living in dormitories with their Chinese peers.

Most of them are faced with three choices: Live in Zhongguanyuan Global Village (across the road on the east side



of campus), rent a dwelling off campus, and some international students live in the Shaoyuan residence complex on campus.

We're Worlds Apart

Yet, the real paradigm is, living at the epicenter of Chinese university campus, verses settling in a more remote international-student ecosystem, not to say the latter lacks any excitement, but rather to highlight a sense of psychological withdrawal



from the Chinese community. Perhaps some insiders at the Global Village might find this characterization an exaggeration, but this exactly illustrates the limit of mutual awareness and understanding. As matter of fact, the reason many international students choose to live in the 36th building is precisely their

concern of detachment from local students. As Shinichi Mizobuchi, an economics sophomore from Japan, explains, “Before coming to PKU, my seniors warned that I might not have much opportunity to engage with Chinese students as we live separately.” Kim Su In, an International Relations freshman from South Korea, also clarifies, “I chose to live in ‘36’ to make more local friends.”

The Melting Pot

So how well have Yuan Pei’s international students integrated? Just peek into their lives and the answer becomes evident. I ask Kim Su In and her roommate, “Can you two communicate freely?” They look at each other and break out laughing at the absurdity of the question. Yet barely a year ago, Kim feared that her roommates would be unable to understand her Chinese.

Despite the stereotypes that Chinese students and international students may have of each other, they have more similarities than they are initially aware of. For instance, they read the same novels, *A Song of Ice and Fire*; play the same computer games, *League of Legends*; and munch on the same notoriously famous Chinese snacks, *la tiao*. International students and Chinese students are also equally immersed in PKU’s clubs and societies.

For example, Randy He from Malaysia is the star of the Yuan Pei badminton team; Kim Jeong Hyon is a key player of the school’s tennis team; Derrick Wu is one of the leading players of the well-known basketball team, and most impressively, Susan Chen 14’ from Canada has even set up her very own swimming team.

Pillow Talk in the Den

There is something uniquely special about living together, which seems to be working like a catalyst—breaking pre-existing barriers and facilitating new bonds. Especially when dusk drops, and the veils of formality during daylight are withdrawn, all hell breaks loose. Surely, the curious combination of people with different experiences creates fascinating dorm dynamics. Kim Su In confesses that, when the lights are out, she and her other three roommates cuddle in their blankets, gossiping about relationships and boyfriends, things that she rarely brings up with others. The roommates of Han Ryol, class of 2014 from North Korea, reveal to me secretly that, during sessions of their pillow talk, they plot about “finding a significant other for our foreign friend”. Especially on weekend

nights, they turn off their alarms, and end up chatting and laughing long after midnight, until one among them finally falls silent and drifts off into sleep. For Derrick, he explains that his dorm mates often inquire about Venezuela, especially since the recent economic default, so he has to keep an eye on recent news so to keep his roommates up to date.

Of course, dorm life in “36” isn’t always that exhilarating. Especially during midterms and finals week, everyone just comes back from the study hall too tired to talk. But moreover, there are also occasional instants of awkwardness and even contention. Han Ryol’s roommates recall a discussion that ended unpleasantly. “We were talking absent-mindedly about a film, *The Interview* (a drama depicting the assassination of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un). At first he (Han) thought it was some random Chinese joke, but after he realized we were talking about the real film, he was clearly upset.” For students from different educational backgrounds, politics is indeed a sensitive yet sometimes inevitable subject. Similarly, Shinichi remembers a pillow talk regarding the ownership of the Diaoyu (Senkaku) Island from the perspectives of China and Japan, “I forget how it started, but somehow our

discussion got a bit heated.” They never brought up the topic again.

Unique Snowflakes

No matter how well-integrated one is, every individual still has personal differences. For example, as his roommates joke, Kim Kyung Tae has a “special tolerance for cold showers”, perhaps a remnant of his experience in the military. Derrick seems to be on a “perpetual business spree”—there are always heaps of boxes containing basketball apparel piled outside his dorm door. Derrick gets his shipment from friends in the United States and then retails them to local customers. As for John, he sleeps exceptionally early compared to his fellow dwellers, so there is a degree of incompatibility in their schedules. Yet despite occasional frictions, they usually manage to figure out a compromise.

In the interviews, I was quite amused with examples of “reverse integration”, when international students stick to their own lifestyle choices and those lifestyles evolve to become the status quo of the entire dorm room. For example, Chinese students prefer to wear flip-flops in the dorm room, but Shinichi prefers walking barefoot, and so he successfully appealed to his roommates to put plastic

flooring over the tiles, hence their new dorm rule, “Take off your shoes before you come in!” Another example is Kim Kyung Tae, whom whenever orders out, refuses to treat himself to anything but Korean cuisine. Now, when they order out on Friday nights, the entire dorm gets Korean food together. Speak about “importing values”!

Time for Change

All in all, during the interviews, I was surprised at the degree of integration of my fellow international students, yet at the same time, I enjoyed witnessing a broad spectrum of different interactions and relations. While chatting with Randy He 14’ from Malaysia, actually a Yuan Pei resident at the Global Village, I realized that life outside the wall isn’t as bad as I pictured after all. He shares a room with a friendly fellow Malaysian, he enjoys warm showers every morning, and it seems like he doesn’t mind the higher cost of rent that much. So I guess it all boils down to this: The choice of living is entirely up to the students themselves. The experimentation of co-housing has proven quite successful in the Yuan Pei College, and perhaps it is about time the school administration extends the opportunity to everyone, because we honestly aren’t that different. ■

An Insider's Narrative

➤ Andrew Mao

When Professor Itzhak Galnoor talks about Israeli politics, he doesn't really just talk about Israeli politics. Rather, he shares lively snippets of his own personal experience, integrated with tales of the evolution of the Jewish state. That is what makes it an absolute treat to receive the dazzling, interwoven narrative for five days in a row as part of a specially tailored course on the Israeli political system.

Prof. Galnoor is a faculty member of the Hebrew University, and a senior fellow at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. At the podium, he is a passionate lecturer; he himself emblematic of the very historical narrative that he orchestrates. When Prof. Galnoor talks about his experience as the head of the Civil Service and working in the government two decades ago, it is as if all boundaries of time and space collapse—we the students, huddled in a classroom amidst a raging mid-April sandstorm in Beijing, enjoy an incredibly intimate insider's view of what actually goes on in the



political arena in the holy land.

“Law of the Return”

“I bet no one can guess where I was born,” challenges Professor Galnoor, during our very first encounter. His confidence is indeed well-founded, as it is beyond anyone's wildest imaginations that Prof. Galnoor is actually a first generation immigrant from Brazil. To be precise, he is actually one of the many 3.5 million-strong citizens in Israel whom are born abroad. That, to an extent, shows the incredible

amount of diversity even within the Jewish community in Israel: not only are they divided among ideological and religious lines (for example, the ultra-orthodox and non-observant Jews), but also, a great deal of them are new immigrants thanks to Israel's significant “Law of the Return” policy of 1952, which grants all Jews citizenship automatically upon return and also subsidizes their passage. In light of this, Prof. Galnoor's response to a question from a second-year student of international relations who asked what is

the first language of these immigrants, he explained that because everyone came from different countries and spoke different tongues, people could only communicate via Hebrew which is similar to the language of the Bible, and it served as a critical connecting element.

“Political Mosaic”

Perhaps this diversity helps to explain the broad spectrum of ideals represented in Israeli politics, which Prof. Galnoor vividly dubs “the political mosaic”. He brings us to the attention of Israel's recent election, in which an impressive thirty-two parties ran for the Knesset, which is Israel's parliament and an arena of political discourse. Among those parties, different sections of society are all adequately and proportionally represented, with everything from religious parties to parties supporting Arab citizens. Doubtlessly, Prof. Galnoor genuinely hails such diversity and inclusiveness. In fact, he cannot conceal his disappointment when I quote Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's “the Arabs are flooding the polls” remark, which was an attempt to provoke ethnic fissures and mobilize more rightist support for his Likud party.

“Eye of the Storm”

One of the great assets of Prof. Galnoor is his unique point of view from within

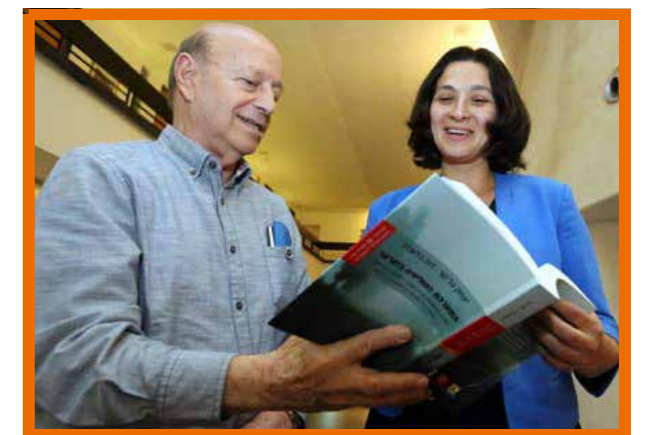
“ One week in Israel politics corresponds to a year of politics in other countries. ”

the raging storm of Israeli politics. After all, “one week in Israel politics corresponds to a year of politics in other countries.”

A prime example of such rapid change and uncertainty was the assassination of Israel Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. At the time, Prof. Galnoor was serving in the government (November 4, 1995). “It was a particularly emotional and personally significant moment for me,” sighs Prof. Galnoor. Just the day before the assassination, Prof. Galnoor had in fact undertaken a personal meeting with the Mr. Rabin, discussing his proposal of a major reform of the civil service. “At first he disapproved of my plan,

but afterwards I managed to convince him.” As matter of fact, even on the very date of assassination, Prof. Galnoor had been preparing his proposal, due to be presented that very Sunday. Unfortunately, it was never finished.

During his time as civil servant, Prof. Galnoor was also a staunch advocate of the constitution, and his belief remained strong to this very day. As introduced in the course, Israel currently has a set of twelve basic laws, yet there is no written constitution. “A constitution is important for many reasons: for its educational purposes, for the sense of orientation it imbues for a young state, for its enshrinement of rights, and because its rigidity is necessary for democracy, ensuring that a simple majority cannot overrule.” Prof. Galnoor expresses regret at the Knesset's occasional overwhelming



legislative power. Yet, despite the seeming importance for Israel having a constitution, all attempts to negotiate one have so far failed. Prof. Galnoor laments that it is now virtually impossible to create a formalized written constitution due to religious obstacles. “All religious parties are against it, and they threaten to boycott the parliament in case of such.”

Yet despite personal setbacks and institutional letdowns, Prof. Galnoor remains generally optimistic with Israel’s democratic future. He comments positively that, “Israel has done a relatively good job of establishing the rules of the game—setting up functional institutions, and we definitely have no lack of choice when it comes to the

polls.”

Even though Prof. Galnoor has retired as a practitioner of Israeli politics, but he is still largely in sync with what’s happening and his personal narrative, such as his discussing reform with Benjamin Netanyahu and his meeting with President Anwar Saadat of Egypt is such an intriguing complement to textbook Israeli politics. ■

from different schools and departments. Some students ranked him as “the loveliest professor ever”. Some regarded his course as uncovering the beauty of English and helping them out of “English equals pain” or “English is my weakness” mindset. At first glance, the arrangement of Professor Dillon’s class is not so very different from others’; for instance, standards, techniques, and examples are introduced and students need to do homework on a regular basis. But after participating in his class, you will see the difference in Professor Dillon’s teaching style.

Unity may be the most obvious feeling. Every student has a name placard, which will become useless after several weeks of class as everyone is familiar with each other. Students need to complete various group projects, from proofreading each other’s work to co-writing a group essay, from offering each other advice to group presentations. Encouragement and compliments are given to students who volunteer their stories, their experience, and their opinions. Principles are also set: “Integrity first”, “service before self”, “Creative/divergent problem-solving” and “excellence in

all we do”, are consistently reemphasized by Professor Dillon.

Professor Dillon emphasizes that unity is not equivalent to to uniformity, and the Professor embraces creativity in his class. Once majoring in art himself, Professor Dillon connects art with creativity cultivation: “See with your own eyes and listen to your heart. Look at the world in an artistic way.” Complied with the guidance, students stop seeking the shortcut by using templates and empty words. Instead, they combine their feelings with their work and adopt, even innovate, vivid descriptions.

Teaching English is not an easy job. Different schools, different grades and different regions account for students’ different English levels. Bound by English standardization tests, students in China often exhaust their efforts in memorizing vocabulary and acquainting themselves with test patterns. Unity and creativity are advocated to overcome these obstacles. Introduced with art and group work, students apply a new learning model and form new habits.

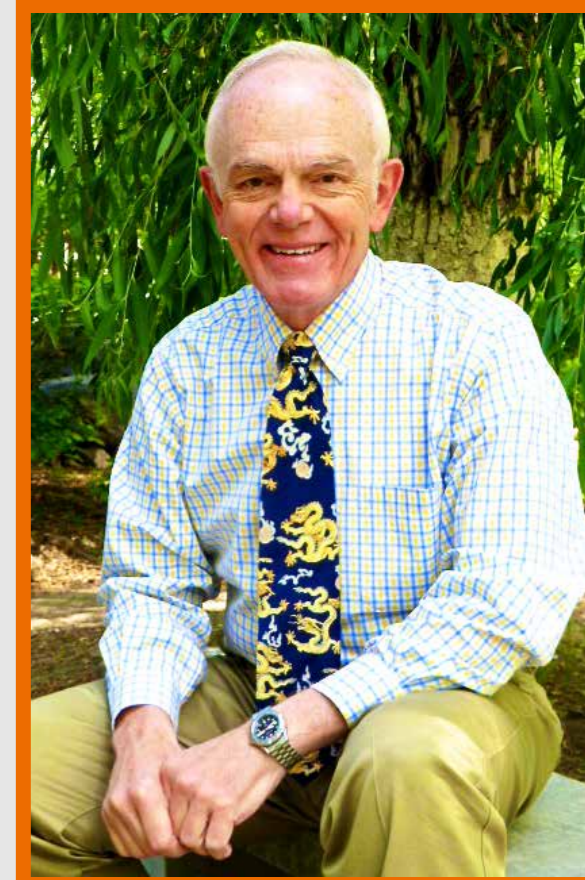
Experiencing from an Individual Perspective

Outside English class,

Professor Dillon is no longer a teacher, but lives and learns as a student.

Travelling and language learning are his hobbies. Professor Dillon has been to Xi’an five times. Each time he visited with different people and made new discoveries. During his latest visit, he went to a newly opened exhibition at the Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum. He plans to climb Mount Hua in the near future. He uses mobile apps to review and study Mandarin words.

With days and months



passing, Professor Dillon gradually began to make his own observation of U.S-

Professor Lee Allan Dillon Influencing and Experiencing on the Journey of Teaching in China

► Tang Yicun

One Tuesday at noon, when most Peking University students hurried to the canteen for lunch, some people headed in a different direction. They were walking in haste to a room in the history building, where Professor Lee Allan Dillon was waiting for them. It was not class time, but students came spontaneously, with a mutual aim: To Practice English.

Professor Dillon serves at School of Foreign Languages, Peking University. He holds a Master’s Degree of Art and

Design from Brigham Young University in Utah, United States, and was an Adjunct

“See with your own eyes and listen to your heart. Look at the world in an artistic way.”

Professor at the University of Utah and Brigham Young University. Apart from the 2-hour English corner he hosts on Tuesdays, he also gives oral English lessons

weekly. In previous semesters, prior to teaching oral English, he taught advanced writing since September 2013. For him, teaching English at Peking University is not only about performing his duty, but also about starting a wonderful journey.

Enlightening through English Teaching

With only 3 full semesters at Peking University, Professor Dillon has already gained a prominent reputation and with students

Chinese differences. Chinese people's "V" hand gesture in photos is unimaginable to him as this gesture is the symbol of rabbit or has anti-governmental meaning in United States. He is also surprised by the popularity of Hello Kitty and Paul Frank among Chinese students. Ridiculous for him at first, he found some cute parts of the cartoon characters and even purchased a blanket of the Paul Frank monkey. "I discussed with my students about these things. They were surprised and had a hard time coming up with reasons. What's normal to you may become strange in fresh eyes. Be aware!" commented Professor Dillon.

Above all, art and culture are where he digs in. He compares *Madam White Snake* by Chinese playwrights and *Madam Butterflies* by Puccini, pondering whether there exists a universal story

pattern. "Life and Death are Wearing Me Out" by Chinese Nobel Winner Yan Mo and "Journey to the West" by Ming Dynasty Writer Chengen Wu are on his reading list. Fascinated by Chinese culture and experienced in Western Culture, he now utilizes the teaching opportunity to explore both realms.

On the Journey: More to Do

"My curriculum is modified from time to time," said Professor Dillon, "At the end of each semester, I request feedback from students, and I also conduct substantial research in how to improve my classes." Next semester, Professor Dillon will open another class for classics study in the Department of Philosophy. He will also advise students with their graduate school application essays.

Language is a powerful tool and English as an international language—it is vital to international communication. In 2014, Professor Dillon was invited to give a speech at an international conference organized by UNESCO, which gave him an opportunity to share his educational experience to a larger audience, and it also taught him new things via the exchange of opinions.

For most people at his age, the music of life has a slow peaceful rhythm. To fulfill his dream of continuing his experiment of "liberal art + English" education and exploring China, Professor Dillon chose a different kind of music, one with a dynamic and exciting rhythm, "Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind," he says. On his journey of teaching in China, there is more to come and more to do. ■



students observe and analyze their lives and surroundings with gender-awareness and sociological approaches.

Professor Tong has been teaching Gender Studies at Peking University (PKU) since 2000. When Professor Tong was working for a magazine during her Ph.D. years, she witnessed a talented girl being rejected by the director of editorial department during recruitment simply because of her gender. After she knew that the director also graduated from a prestigious university, she began to reflect on the lack of gender equality education in universities in China. "In our patriarchal society, are

husbands are being told that their wives shall be equally respected and should be kept free from domestic violence. Are girls being assured that discrimination stems from injustice in the society instead of her own fault? Are people educated on how to maintain a mutually respectful relationship and show their love based on equality?"

"To be honest, there were students who find it difficult to relate to my class in the beginning," admits Professor Tong, "for it is extremely different from the conventional value system that brought them up." Xie Yimin, a freshman from the law school, also recalls that she was quite shocked

the first time listening to Professor Tong's lecture: "My parents were brought up traditionally in the countryside of Northeastern China, which affected me to some extent. However, Professor Tong informed me that we should always ask where our knowledge comes from, so as to be critical to all the existing social gender 'norms'."

The outline of Professor Tong's Gender Studies class ranges from basic gender theories to research methods, and it covers aspects from the physical body to marriage, careers, and education. "What gave me the deepest impression is a class discussion on the gender

Tong Xin

Gender Equality is for Everyone

by Yue Xin



Tampans, bras, weddings, subway advertisements, the Sichuan countryside, fathers,

and daughters... These are only some of the various topics presented by students in Professor Tong Xin's Gender

Studies class on December 17, 2014. Coming from different places in China, the U.S., Korea, and Israel, these

disparity of retirement age and employment policy," recalls Wang Shuqidi, a sophomore from the school of government, "it made me realize the discrimination can come under the veil of protection, and it inspired me to apply a gender perspective to my public policy analysis essay." For Xu Yuechi, however, the most inspiring topic is the relationship of sociologist Li Yinhe and her transgendered spouse. "Li herself has always been in the spotlight and the story of sexual

minorities fits the topic of gender studies. Professor Tong is so open-minded that she would never offend any individual of a minority group."

The midterm research is considerably important, and those who have done an outstanding job are invited to give a presentation on their research. Her students, mostly focused on ordinary people, such as retired women and migrant workers. "One reflection by a student after interviewing some female cleaning workers in the university ended up hitting the headlines of the campus online forum", Professor Tong said. Whereas in recent years, thanks to the fundamental changes the Internet has brought to Chinese society, emphasis on discourse system, such as gender stereotypes conveyed by social media, has been on the rise. International

students have also brought new points of view to research and class discussions. Professor Tong gives an example, "A Korean boy in my class talked about his military service that lasted two years in his paper, and he found it a crucial factor for him to shape 'masculinity'."

As the Deputy Director of PKU Department of Sociology and the President of the Beijing Research Association of Marriage and Family, Professor Tong takes an active stance on policy making. In 1995, she attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, giving a presentation on her research A Study on Family Violence. She is also a member of the 10th and 11th Beijing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), bringing the gender issues into political decision-

“Equality is not attained by sheer words. Equality is not achieved by requesting, but by creating. Gender equality is beneficial not only for women, but for all genders.”

making process. "Feminists have the responsibility to go into the mainstream society," conveys Professor Tong, "especially when we are still in need of the basic 'political correctness' in gender equality. Only when we genuinely participate in the policy making can we form a systematic baseline that excludes gender discrimination, especially in mass media."

When it comes to gender equality, top-level design of policy roots in the field, and because of this, Professor Tong spends much of her time doing field research and social work as well. In 2010, she went to the rural areas of Gansu province in order to research women's status throughout China. In addition, she is frequently invited by social organizations to deliver speeches and offer guidance on research. Many married women came to Professor Tong's speeches because they have difficulties balancing their work and family lives, and Professor Tong always suggests to them to try sharing family chores with their husbands. "My husband cooks for our family and I do all the cleaning," said Professor Tong, "and my son has been doing the dishes since junior high school, even in the days when he was busy preparing for the University Entrance Examination." Having created a family of gender equality, Professor Tong encourages these women to have their husbands experience the happiness and fulfillment of doing housework. "Equality is not attained by sheer words. Equality is not achieved by requesting, but by creating. As for housework, it is not only a responsibility of both

genders, but also a way of action to show your family love."

According to her dissertation Women/Gender Sociology Studies in China in 30 Years, Professor Tong divides the Chinese study of gender equality in recent years into three stages: putting forward the problems from the early 1980s to 1994; introducing western theories and gender approaches from 1994 to 2000; and applying gender approaches to the wider range of social issues from 2000 to now. In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women brought the gender issue to the public. "I still see the progress of gender equality movement in China during these 20 years since the 1995 Conference, for there is a growing awareness among Chinese women: even though there is a long way to go, an increasing number of individuals stand out to voice for equal rights of both genders."

Thanks to Professor Tong, the awareness of gender equality has gradually taken root at PKU. The issue of gender discrimination in mass media often spurs heated

discussions on campus, on online forums, and on social networking applications like WeChat. Various student organizations and academic groups emerge rapidly, spreading news, stories, and knowledge of gender equality



and diversity. Every year on March 7, the day before International Women's Day, students in PKU celebrate "Girl's Day". On that day, boys put up banners for girls in their departments and show their appreciation for their female classmates. As pleased and moved the girls are by these gestures, they also realize that pretty appearances and gentle characters should not be seen as the universal criteria for girls and women. "We, women and men as well, are like people in cases, fixed by gender stereotypes", argues Wang Shuqidi, "yet every individual ought to have diverse possibilities." ■



FACES

Connecting the Next Generation of Leaders in US-China Affairs

► Zhao Jiayin

The Beijing chapter of The Forum for American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford (FACES) was held from March 24 to 29, 2015. Over 100 students, professors and accomplished speakers were in attendance at Peking University (PKU) to discuss the future of the two countries and their relations. Ms. Colleen Altstock, First Secretary of the Political Section at the

U.S. Embassy in Beijing delivered the keynote speech entitled, “USA-China Relations: Opportunities for Cooperation”, while Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of PKU’s School of International Studies, led a panel discussion on the topic, “The Misunderstanding and Consensus in USA-China Relations”.

With its primary focus on Sino-American relations, FACES is dedicated to

promoting dialogue and fostering long-lasting relationships among future leaders in the USA and China. FACES has organized numerous events in both countries since 2001. Every year, forty promising delegates from around the world are selected to attend the annual conference held in Stanford and China. Through these events, FACES seeks to establish a network of eminent speakers, partners,

and alumni who have an impact on Sino-American relations in various fields. FACES has a strong presence at Stanford University in the U.S. and China’s Peking University, Renmin University, Fudan University, and Zhejiang University.

As Chuan Xu and Caitlin Lu, co-presidents of FACES 2013 from the Stanford chapter put it, “There are two core beliefs that have motivated generations of FACES leaders: We believe that the U.S.-China relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the twenty-first century, and we believe that we can improve this relationship by promoting mutual understanding among future political, academic, and business leaders in U.S.-China affairs.”

Spurred on by these convictions, FACES is devoted to creative and effective ways to foster interaction between students from China and the U.S. by adopting new formats and technologies. An important part of the forum is the tele-summit, which was held in the Stanford Center of Peking University on November 4, 2014. The FACES summit, whose timing coincided with the APEC summit held in Beijing, was focused on the APEC. The students

discussed topics such as the core diplomatic, political, and economic goals of both China and the U.S. at the APEC summit; they also discussed common ground

to establish connections and understand more about China. As a future officer in the U.S. Air Force, he hoped to be the “voice of reason in the military that understands

“ There are two core beliefs that have motivated generations of FACES leaders: We believe that the U.S.-China relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the twenty-first century, and we believe that we can improve this relationship by promoting mutual understanding among future political, academic, and business leaders in U.S.-China affairs. ”

that both countries might be able to find and expand upon.

For the Beijing chapter of the forum in 2015, a new program was added to the itinerary. For the first time, the participants were split into small groups for in-depth discussions on topics of interest to them. By discussing, assessing, and debating topics such as democracy, individualism and collectivism, and national identity, students from both the U.S. and China were able to reconsider certain concepts, gain awareness of the trap of stereotypes, and empathize with each other.

The delegates found the forum immensely rewarding. Peter Loftus from the University of Massachusetts Amherst shared that he enjoyed the opportunity

China, which is something lacking at the moment.” Loftus believed that “China does things out of national interest and that sometimes it will naturally collide with the U.S.’s interests. But we have to accommodate China as well and that starts with understanding China and what China needs.”

“This organization is playing an important role in promoting mutual understanding between the two countries’ youth,” said Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State of the United States. FACES continues to flourish and work tirelessly to promote mutual understanding and consolidate the relationships amongst the next generation of U.S.-China leaders. ■

Pushing Beyond the Limits

Hiking in the Desert for 60 Hours

➤ Zhou Huiying

The third annual installation of the “An Adventure in the Desert” event was held in April 2015, and it once again saw students hiking across the Kubuqi Desert in China’s Inner Mongolia region for sixty hours.

“An Adventure in the Desert” is one of the many activities organized by the Peking University (PKU) Students’ Union, and in 2015, it was held for the third consecutive year. The program aims to encourage

college students to pick up outdoor exercise, strengthen their resolve, and cultivate in them an acute sense of responsibility. After a round of selections to ensure that participants are physically able to undergo the grueling hike, the seventh largest desert of China.

This event was first held in 2013. Back then, there were only thirty-five students involved in the eighty-kilometer hike across the

Kabuki desert. During the pioneer hike, the participants were shocked by the severe ecological situation in the Kubuqi Desert—there were no green plants, just an infinite vastness of yellow sand. During the second year of the event, the new batch of participants decided to focus their efforts on reforestation, with the hope of contributing to the improvement of the desert environment.

This year, the third “An Adventure in the Desert” was

held from April 4 to April 6, 2015. Forty-five students and four leading teachers took part in this activity,

“This program had helped me to reconsider the relationship between human beings and nature.”

including, for the first time, four students from Tsinghua University and Beijing Normal University. With the aim of encouraging college students from around China to join in the adventure, these four students were specially invited by the PKU Student Union to join the team this year.

In the 2015 program, the participants were split into three groups, and competed to see which team was the fastest. However, the program was not just a competition. The participants went to En’gebei Ecological Tourism Zone and planted trees in the sand-break forests. They watched the sunrise together and took in the beautiful scenery along the Yellow River, whose basin is the birthplace of ancient Chinese civilization. At night, they pitched tents and had campfire parties in the desert.

“I have never been as

awed by nature as I was in the desert,” said Chen Ziyu, one of the participants.

“This program had helped me to reconsider the relationship between human beings and nature. During the hike, we saw a rabbit and thought we could catch up with

it—but we failed. I next sighted a small reptile and was determined to surpass it. But to my surprise—I failed again. I was amazed by nature, and realized that human beings are not necessarily superior to smaller animals.”

The hike was a great challenge to most of the participants. Most of them were used to living comfortably in modern cities, and this program was a big step away from their comfort zones. “Though my feet were covered with blisters at the end of the hike, I still appreciated it. It has trained my willpower and taught me that difficulties can be overcome,” said Guo Yusi. “I will never forget the chilling weather when we crossed the Yellow River. Nor will I ever forget that the most delicious instant noodles I have ever eaten was in the desert. I will also never forget the time we sat in the dune to appreciate the

magnificent galaxy in the dark sky.”

According to Zhang Linna, the hike was no smooth ride: “I had a cramp in one of my legs. My feet were full of painful blisters. I was so exhausted and in such pain that I could barely walk. At night, despite wearing many layers of clothes, it was still too cold to sleep. The feeling was very terrible.” However, Zhang had help from the other participants, allowing her to persevere through the hike. “Some of them helped to carry my backpack, while others helped to apply medicine and bandage my wounds. I am immensely grateful to them.”

The students relied on music to help them on their grueling journey as well. As Lin Zhongwang and



Luo Bujing explained, “At the beginning of our hike, the atmosphere was muted. Though the scenery was beautiful, we still could not help but feel that something was lacking. Finally, we

realized that what was missing was laughter. We decided to sing a song. When we sang our first song, a girl walking beside us laughed and proceeded to join us in our song. After that, we constantly sang songs throughout the remainder of the hike. We were very happy to discover that it was easier to walk with the accompaniment of a musical beat. We sang so much that our mouths still hurt after returning to campus!”

The PKU Student Union spent five months organizing this year's events. One of the

founding organizers of the event, Xie Tiange, shared about the tough times they had while trying to organize the hike for the first time in 2013. “When we first came up with the idea of hiking across a desert and started to put things into action, we had a very difficult time because there were so many things to consider and deal with.” For instance, Xie and his team spoke to school officials to request permission for this activity, and sought the police's help in addressing safety concerns.

“An Adventure in the Desert” is still growing and expanding. It encourages students to take a greater interest in protecting the environment. With the declining physical fitness in China's college students, such programs also play a quintessential role by actively encouraging college students to take part in outdoor exercises. Finally, the program challenges the youth of today to chase their dreams, challenge life's limits, and explore life's infinite possibilities. ■



Connecting People through Food at the International Food Festival

► Liu Zhaoyan

An international food festival jointly held by the School of International Studies, Guanghua School of Management, and the School of Foreign Languages of Peking University (PKU) was held at Peking University (PKU) on April 10, 2015. The festival saw the participation of students hailing from various countries including China, Spain, Russia, France, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, and Turkey.

Food has always been something that connects people. With its highly internationalized composition of students, PKU is well poised to conduct various cross-cultural events and activities



such as international food festivals.

The aim of this festival is to allow Chinese students to gain a deeper understanding of foreign cultures through food. At this festival, Chinese students can learn more about foreign cultures from all over the world in a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere, while interacting with international students over food and drinks.

The festival kicked off at the New Sun Student Centre at PKU, where representatives of the various

participating countries delivered presentations on their history as well as traditional food and culture. After the presentations, students moved to the Student Canteen 5, where international students cooked traditional food from their own countries and shared them with each other.

The Korean students brought three kinds of traditional food, of which the rice cakes, a kind of dessert, was the most warmly received by the other students. Takoyaki from Japan was also popular



at the festival. Students from Turkey also brought traditional dessert for other students. Other than international cuisine, the Chinese hosts also prepared special delicacies from China for the international students.

Tai Lin, one of the organizers of the joint festival from the School of International Studies, said that the most pleasant thing during the whole event was the organizing itself. She enjoyed the chance to plan and secure sponsorships for the festival with students from the other two faculties. She also felt a deep sense of achievement when the activities went exactly as planned.

The most pleasant thing that Wu Di, one of the

organizers from the School of Foreign Languages, recalled was the positive reviews from the festival attendees. However, he regretted that he could not taste any of the delicacies himself as he was busy coordinating the event that day. He joked that he would definitely be there for the next event, but just as a participant so that he can taste all the delicious food available at the festival.

For the international students, not only were they able to taste food from all around the world and learn about other countries' history and culture, they were surprised about the things that they did not know about their own countries before they started their preparation for the festival.

Though there were some obstacles faced during the preparation process, the International Food Festival was overall a huge success. Both Chinese and international students enjoyed themselves at the



festival while learning about different cultures. ■



to present awards to the champions of sports competitions held in PKU over the previous semester. One of the most well-known awards—the annual PKU Sportsmanship Award, which typically goes to teachers, students, and groups that have made remarkable contributions to sports at PKU, went to Liu Yining from the PKU Health Science Centre, Qian Junwei, and Wang Yulao from the Department of Physical Education and Sports Science, and the PKU basketball team.

PKU's new President, Prof. Lin Jianhua, was all decked out in sportswear.

He took the stage to share his understanding of the relationship between sports and education. He asserted that not only can sports help one to keep fit, but that it will also enhance one's willpower. He also quoted former PKU President Cai Yuanpei, who had placed great emphasis on physical education and supported the idea of strengthening one's character through physical education. President Lin advocated that PKU students should devote themselves to both academics and physical exercise, as they both lay the foundation for anyone wishing to work for the cause of improving

society. President Lin, who had played basketball during his early years, then teamed up with a student from the Department of History to compete in free-throw shootout with two students chosen randomly from the audience. After outperforming the other team, which made the audience burst into applause and cheers, President Lin interacted with audience further in an ecstatic atmosphere. He even used a selfie stick to take a photo with everyone present.

Soon afterwards, Vice Chairman of PKU Committee Ye Jingyi announced the launch of the "PKU Sporting

PKU Sports Night

► *Wei Wei*

On the evening of April 19, 2015, the third annual Peking University (PKU) Sports Night was held at the PKU No. 1 Gymnasium near Weiming Lake. Professor Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, Professor Ye Jingyi, Vice Chairman of the PKU

Committee, Professor Gao Song, Vice President of PKU, took part in the gala and Shining Run activities. Other attendees include Ruan Cao, Secretary of the PKU Youth Committee, and Professor Li Ning, Dean of Department of Physical Education and Sports

Science.

The gala kicked off with the playing of a video of Olympic medalists offering their well-wishes to the PKU Sports Night. This was followed by a series of well-choreographed performances. Thirty influential Chinese Olympians were invited

Dream Project". This is a charity project established by the PKU Student Union in 2014, which has the aim of serving society. This year, the project will build playgrounds for children in remote areas of Inner Mongolia and Hebei with the hope of creating

“President Lin advocated that PKU students should devote themselves to both academics and physical exercise, as they both lay the foundation for anyone wishing to work for the cause of improving society.”

more opportunities for children who love sports to pursue and fulfill their dreams.

The long anticipated Shining Run was arguably the biggest highlight of the Sports Night. One hour before the activity officially

commenced, hundreds of participants had queued up eagerly for fluorescent materials and light sticks. The moment they received the items, they went ahead with creating their own unique DIY T-shirts and decorating themselves with fluorescent materials. According to many students, it was exciting to be able to meet their favorite athletes and bands and to run together with them. At the same time, the volunteers supporting the activities were working hard on the final preparations. “We had a very thorough rehearsal last night. It is an annual event, and we are all trying our best to create the best atmosphere possible so that all people can enjoy themselves,” said one volunteer.

After the Sports Night

award ceremony, hundreds of Shining Run participants gathered near the northwest gate of the No. 1 Gymnasium. The entire “starry track” alongside Weiming Lake was decorated with colorful lights. With President Lin leading the whole team, runners enjoyed the bobbing light displays as they jogged along the lake in the cool night. Sports aren’t only about competition but also about doing fun activities with friends.

The beautiful starry night of sports raised the students’ awareness to the importance of exercise. Many participants interviewed said that they were motivated to start living a healthy lifestyle and a passion for sports was ignited. The hope is that the enthusiasm displayed during the eventful night will not be forgotten and that a stronger sports and exercise culture will be cultivated. ■

Over five hundred representatives, observers, and advisers from more than a hundred high schools attended the conference. His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Faisal, Maldives Ambassador to China, Yan Liang, Director of the Secretariat Department of the China Association of the United Nations, Professor Wang Yiming, Vice Secretary of Peking University Youth League Committee, and Professor Wang Yizhou, Deputy Dean of School of International Studies graced the opening ceremony.

The year of 2015 marks the target date of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They are: Eradicating extreme poverty

and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development. PKUMUN is a golden opportunity for high school students to review the world’s development and to envision a brighter future.

Throughout the four days, the student delegates represented their country’s position, delivered fiery speeches and negotiated on

“PKUMUN is a golden opportunity for high school students to review the world’s development and to envision a brighter future.”

topics such as children health, global finance, aviation accidents, all of which have captured the world’s attention in the past year.

At the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the delegates noted that in less developed countries, under the harsh conditions of social instability, under-qualified life-maintenance system and low incomes, it is difficult for a country to

PKU National Model UN Conference for High School Students

► Zhang Rutian

The closing ceremony of the Peking University National Model United Nations Conference for High

School Students (PKUMUN) was held on March 29, 2015. The four-day event saw high school students from all over

the country gather at Peking University to contribute their ideas and efforts to solve global issues.



conduct its Early Childhood Development (ECD) policy solely through its own efforts. Lacking efficient management and enough financial resources to both support ECD and curb social chaos, the country is trapped in the dilemma of needing to build a better ECD environment but being unable to cover the tremendous expenses involved. Therefore, the student delegates concluded that establishing an international aid mechanism may serve as a possible solution to these problems.

At the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the delegates argued that in developing countries, governments should deepen educational reforms, including the use of legal measures to ensure teachers' salaries, welfare, and the right to receive an education. They also unanimously called for an increase in public expenditures on education.

At UN-Energy, the delegates argued that traditional energy sources should be gradually replaced by renewable energy and that joint efforts and collaboration between countries and regions should be increased. It is also vital that countries with advanced energy technologies share their experience and expertise with less developed countries.

Delegates at the NGOs

summit explained that NGOs should devote more attention towards healthy living and social cohesion. They should share and spread the right values, which include social responsibility and a positive attitude toward life. At the same time, NGOs should cooperate more with governments and the media to exert greater influence.

At the Security Council, the delegates advocated that UN should strengthen the protection of citizens in war and conflict zones. The maintenance of international peace and security should also include the restriction of chemical weapons.

Delegates at the General

system, and they reached a consensus that developing countries should be involved in and play an increasingly important role in establishing the international supervision system. This includes improving safety in countries, protecting foreign companies and investments, and sustaining economic aid for the least developed countries.

Young people are full of creativity and through friendship, understanding, and cooperation, they are poised to make the world a better place. By allowing high school students to view international issues from multiple perspectives, PKUMUN has contributed to the deepening



Assembly exchanged opinions on functional regulations for a new international supervision

of students' awareness and understanding of the world around us. ■

Honoring the Past, Looking to the Future Public Memorial Ceremonies for Qingming Festival

► He Yuchen

In China, the beginning of every April is a period of beauty and solemnness. The Qingming Festival, which falls on either April 4 or 5 of the Gregorian calendar, marks a special time in Chinese tradition to sweep tombs and remember ancestors. Peking University (PKU) held its annual public memorial during the three-day Qingming holiday in memory of the past teachers, students, and alumni of PKU who have devoted their life to the noble cause of liberation and development. Hundreds of PKU teachers and students attended the series of ceremonies during these three days.

Honoring the Past

On the morning of April 4, 2015, Professor Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of PKU Council, and Professor Ke Yang, Executive Vice President of PKU, led teachers and students from different schools and departments to the Peking

University Revolutionary Martyrs Monument for this year's public memorial ceremony. Prof. Zhu and Prof. Ke presented bouquets at the monument, followed by teachers and students who laid flowers and bowed in respect. Later, they walked to the statues of Li Dazhao, librarian at PKU and cofounder of the Chinese Communist Party, and Cai Yuanpei, former president of PKU who assembled influential figures in the New Culture and May Fourth Movements, to pay their respects. During the memorial, Chairman Zhu and Professor Ke interacted with



the students, encouraging them to learn from these pioneers and take up the responsibility of leading their generation.

On the next day, another





public memorial ceremony was held at the Jingyuan Park in PKU. Two student representatives recited poems in front of a

monument to express their respect and praise for the martyrs. Professor Ye Jingyi, Vice Chairman of PKU Council, attended the ceremony.

The memorial activities were not just confined to campus. On April 6, students from the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, School of Government and School of Earth and Space Sciences headed to the Wan An Cemetery to pay homage to the tomb of Li Dazhao and to recall his great devotion to China's revolution and to the foundation of the Party.

Diverse Memorial Activities

At the same time, various schools and departments in PKU held their own memorial activities to pay their respects to past teachers and martyrs. On the morning of April 3, student representatives from the School of Economics attended the public memorial ceremony in honor of Li Dazhao and Professor Chen Daisun. Professor Chen Daisun was the former Dean of Department of Economics, now the School

of Economics, and was formerly one of China's most prestigious economists. He had dedicated his life to academic research and PKU's development. The recitation of inscriptions and letters, together with a

student Xu Xinqing, "It helps us better understand the core value of our college which we are all proud of." Some students even lingered in front of the statue after the ceremony to continue their contemplation.

“ We see social issues that call for concern, and we should not hesitate in trying to address them, both on campus and off campus. ”

visit to the memorial hall, provided students with a deeper comprehension of the two great figures, and led them to reflect on their behaviors and goals in life.

In remembrance of Cai Yuanpei, Yuanpei College held its own ceremony on the morning of April 4. The college inherits not only his name but also his influential support of "freedom and diversity in thoughts", which he put forward nearly one hundred years ago. First-year students of Yuanpei College were in attendance, and they took turns to lay flowers in front of the statue of Cai Yuanpei and to pay their respect to him. "It was a moving and unforgettable scene," said

The ceremony first took place in 2009 and was initiated by students. It remains a unique tradition of Yuanpei College since then. "We

hope that students can understand the original intention of founding this college," said Professor Guo Li from Yuanpei College, "and we are glad to see that students do benefit from such activities."

Looking to the Future

As the most influential university in China's history, PKU has given birth to generations of pioneers who have contributed enormously to the country's modernization and revival. From revolution to education, from literature to science, PKU has left its impact in every part of the turbulent and glorious history of modern

China. Take the Peking University Revolutionary Martyrs Monument as an example, carved behind it were the names of ninety-five teachers, students, and alumni who had given their life in the fight for freedom from 1919 to 1952, with the revolutionary pioneer, Li Dazhao, being the first.

The public memorial provides students with a chance to deepen their links with great figures of the past. "It is about social responsibility," said Guo Ziqian, who participated in the memorial on April 5, "and responsibility is what every student at PKU should not shy away from."

Guo Ziqian, who has just returned from a community work trip in North Korea, mentioned what a contemporary PKU student can do to lead society. "We see social issues that call for concern, and we should not hesitate in trying to address them, both on campus and off campus."

Pang Huan from Graduate School of Education said that this was the third time that she had taken part in such memorial activities. "Every time it offers me the chance to reflect," she said. ■





36th Meeting of the Association of East Asian Research Universities

Ge Nan

The 36th Board of Directors Meeting (BOD) of the Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU) and the 3rd AEARU Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters were held at Peking University (PKU) on April 11, 2015. Twenty-seven representatives from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan were present. Chen Jun, Chairperson of AEARU and President of Nanjing University, and Lin Jianhua, President of PKU, extended a warm welcome to the guests and delivered their opening addresses.

In his speech, President

Lin pointed out that members of AEARU shared common cultural backgrounds and academic pursuits, and they together shouldered a common responsibility for the development of the region. Despite the challenges brought by globalization and internationalization, AEARU had coped well and enhanced higher education in East Asia. President Lin also recounted the relationship between PKU and AEARU since the university first joined the organization in 1998. PKU had witnessed the remarkable growth of AEARU in the past decade, and it is eager to contribute to the development of the association.

As one of the flagship programs of the AEARU, the 3rd AEARU Symposium on the Culture of Chinese Characters was held at PKU later in the morning on the same day. Organized by the School of Chinese Language and Literature of PKU, the meeting was aimed at promoting academic communication and development amongst East Asian research universities in the study of Chinese characters and their inherent culture. Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, and Jin Yongbing, Professor and Party Secretary of the School of Chinese Language and Literature, attended the

opening ceremony.

Vice President Li, in his opening speech, said that Chinese characters were not only a symbol of the five-thousand-year-old Chinese civilization, but also an

important bridge that linked together East Asian countries. He hoped that this year's meeting would deepen the participants' understanding of Chinese characters and their culture.

In the two-day symposium that followed, twenty-three top scholars from both home and abroad had a lively discussion on the origin, evolution, and diffusion of Chinese characters. ■

2015 APAIE Conference in Beijing

Li Yuelin

The annual conference of Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) was held from March 24 to 26, 2015 at the Beijing International Convention Center. Peking University (PKU), as the main host, worked together with other top Chinese institutions of higher learning to welcome education experts and university presidents from across the globe. Katsuichi Uchida, President of APAIE, Wu Zhipan, Executive Vice President of PKU, Li Yansong, Vice President of PKU, and Zheng Dengwen, Vice Director of Beijing Municipal Commission of Education attended the opening ceremony and addressed the audience.

In their speeches, they reviewed the history of APAIE's annual conferences and emphasized the significance of enhancing cooperation in education in the Asia-



Pacific region. As a non-profit international organization dedicated to enhancing the internationalization of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world, APAIE has now grown to be the third largest regional education organization since it was first established in 2006. The APAIE Annual Conference and Exhibition also plays an increasingly crucial role in

bringing together policy-makers and education experts to improve their professional skills and learn about new developments in international education.

Under this year's theme of "The New Paradigm of Engaging Asia Pacific Universities for Exchange and Cooperation in a Global Context: Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions", the conference featured a

variety of activities such as forums, exhibitions, workshops, and panel discussions. Representatives from around the world participated in these multiple forms of communication and discussion, exchanging their perspectives on issues such as student support services, course and project patterns, and internationalization strategy.

As an integral part of the conference, the APAIE Presidents' Roundtable was

held at PKU's Yingjie Overseas Exchange Centre on March 25. Centering on this year's theme, "Universities: Driving Force for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development", three leading speakers were invited to deliver keynote speeches. They were, President Mr. Ian O'Connor of Griffith University, Vice President Claudia Leopold of University of Hamburg, and President Peng Long of Beijing Foreign Studies University. Their understanding

of the mission of universities in providing knowledge and advanced technologies for social progress and innovation stimulated discussions among participants.

The three-day conference was concluded by a gala dinner with impressive performances put up by Chinese students, following which the APAIE flag was handed from PKU to the University of Melbourne, the host of the next annual conference. ■

seize every opportunity for further communication and cooperation.

President Young and Minister Barr each delivered a 20-minute speech on the topic, "The Role Universities Play in the Development of State Economy", discussing the characteristics that a world-class university should possess to better serve the country. In their speech, they stressed the increasingly significant

role that China plays on the world stage, which was the chief reason ANU placed more emphasis on Chinese Studies. Both Young and Barr also expressed keen interest and willingness to build a stronger relationship for further cooperation.

After the opening ceremony, Chairman of PKU Council Zhu Shanlu met with the delegates. Both universities reached more agreements

to cooperate further in specific areas such as student exchanges. In the afternoon, PKU Vice President Wang Jie and Margaret Harding, ANU Vice President of Research, discussed the present state and future prospects of the two schools' cooperation in scientific research. A series of academic seminars was also conducted between scholars from both universities in a variety of fields. ■

Australia National University Day

► Zhong Xue

Australia National University Day was successfully held at the Yingjie Exchange Center of Peking University (PKU) on April 14, 2015. A delegation

led by Ian Young AO, President of Australia National University (ANU), and Andrew Barr, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory, visited PKU and

was warmly received by PKU President Lin Jianhua and Vice President Li Yanson.

ANU, located in Canberra, Australia, is internationally renowned for its high standards in teaching and research. It is regarded as one of the leading comprehensive research universities both in Australia and around the world. During the opening ceremony, President Lin noted that since collaboration between ANU and PKU first began in the 1980s, significant progress has been achieved in various fields such as engineering and medical sciences, and he expressed his hope that the two universities would



École Polytechnique and PKU Sign Double Degree Program Agreement

► Dong Xinran

École Polytechnique (l'X) and Peking University (PKU) signed a double degree program agreement on mathematical sciences on March 31, 2015.

This double degree program agreement will allow students in their third year of undergraduate studies at the School of Mathematical Sciences of PKU to take the international admission exam to enter l'X. They will study for three years in France before returning to PKU for the final year of their Master's degree. The students will get

both a diploma from PKU and l'X. It is hoped that this agreement will also encourage l'X students to come to PKU for research internships abroad.

Dr. Li Yansong, Vice-President of PKU, spoke highly of the double degree program with l'X. He regarded the competitive program as a new model of cooperation to offer a unique opportunity for students of both universities to gain the most out of their university experience and be better equipped with a multicultural background. He also expressed a warm welcome to

students from l'X.

Dr. Frank Pacard, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Research of l'X, viewed this program as a deepening of the cooperative relationship between the two higher education institutions. He held that the multidisciplinary approach adopted by l'X in both pure and applied mathematics study would be complementary to that of the PKU School of Mathematical Sciences. He also hoped that the agreement would serve to enhance student mobility between France and China. ■

Jia Qingguo

Reducing Misunderstandings is Key to Sino-U.S. Relations

▸ *Ami Higuchi*

On March 27, 2015, Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of the School of International Relations at Peking University (PKU), said during the keynote speech of the 15th annual conference of FACES (Forum for American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford) that the 21st century marks the strongest period of bilateral ties between China and the United States. In his speech, Prof. Jia repeatedly emphasized the importance of eliminating misunderstandings and increasing consensus between China and the U.S., especially in the age of economic and cultural globalization. This is because misunderstanding each other's diplomatic and political positions could easily mislead both countries and become obstacles in the bid to create peaceful and harmonious bilateral relations. "Foreign relations are just like human relations, there needs to be mutual trust." Thus, Prof. Jia argues, China and the U.S.



should focus more on the benefits that both countries can get from economic cooperation and common goals rather than purely looking at political or military "threats".

Prof. Jia Qingguo was born in 1956, in the Chinese province of Henan. Since he graduated with a doctorates degree from Cornell University in 1984, he has taught at several prestigious universities including Beijing International Studies University, Cornell

University, University of California at San Diego, and Sydney University. He is currently the Dean of the School of International Studies at PKU has published extensively on U.S.-China relations, Chinese foreign policy, as well as Chinese politics. Prof. Jia is a member of the Standing Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

The Office of International

Relations recently conducted an interview with Prof. Jia on his views on Sino-U.S. relations. The following is an excerpt of Prof. Jia's response to our questions.

Future of Sino-U.S. Relations

"During the cold war, the economy of the Soviet Union was relatively weak and was almost non-influential to the global economy. Contemporary China, in contrast, is a dynamic factor in the world economy. It is a principal trading partner of all its neighbors and most of the world's industrial powers, including the United States. China has bound itself with the world and has been increasing its influence in a peaceful way, not only in economics and trade, but also culturally. Therefore, the strategies that were used during the cold war cannot be applied now, which means the world has to reconstruct an international order in which both countries are significant components," said Prof. Jia. When asked for his opinion of the future of Sino-U.S. relations, Prof. Jia quoted President Xi's call for a "new type of major-power relationship" at a 2013 summit with United States' President Barack Obama. Chinese diplomats said the

initiative was defined by three points: no conflict or confrontation, mutual respect for each other's core interests and major concerns, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

One of the trickier problems in Sino-U.S. relations boils down to the territorial disputes between China and its neighbors, especially Japan. Prof. Jia mentioned that these territorial disputes play a significant role in the

the principle of "setting aside dispute and pursuing joint development" in 1979 in relation to China's dispute with Japan over the Diaoyu (Senkaku) Islands.

Enhancing Mutual Trust

The easiest and quickest way to enhance mutual trust is, according to Prof. Jia, at the micro level. Prof. Jia said that cultural exchange programs and events, such as FACES, at the grassroots level would help eliminate unnecessary



"Foreign relations are just like human relations, there needs to be mutual trust."



Sino-U.S. relations and should not be neglected. "China has to solve the territorial and maritime disputes with its neighbor countries promptly because the relations between China and the neighbors would affect its ties with the United States," Prof. Jia believes that "the best way for China to tackle these problems is to keep Deng Xiaoping's diplomatic principles in mind and let the world know where China stands on these issues." Deng Xiaoping, the country's late paramount leader, had first advanced

misunderstandings of each other. "It's like any kinds of human relationship, when you have interacted with someone and became friends with him, you are more likely to not view him as a threat or enemy."

We now live in an age of technology and social media. Everyone can easily express and share his or her opinions, feelings and thoughts to everyone online. China has a huge population, and as such there are many different opinions on every issue, including the issue of Sino-U.S. relations. When

asked for his opinion on how social networking activities can possibly influence Sino-U.S. relations, Prof. Jia replied that we still do not completely understand social media's affect, but based on the current situation, he described two scenarios for us: "One is that extremists take control online and people from both countries create more misunderstandings and

confusions by looking at the opinions of the extremists." It is easy to mislead people into thinking that extremist opinions online reflect the mainstream opinion in the country. Another scenario is that people "use the power of the Internet for the good of all and take full advantage of it to strengthen China-U.S. ties." The Internet can both simultaneously be the best way and the

worst way to get to know one another's culture and discover our differences as well as similarities. Prof. Jia believed that it is all up to us, to "look through colored lenses or clear lenses", and accept the differences or reject the diversity. China and the U.S. should diminish mutual misunderstandings for the sake of a more peaceful and harmonious world. ■

Paul Kelly

Australian Politics in "Profound Instability"

► Chia Wai Kian

Veteran Australian journalist Paul Kelly conducted a lecture at Peking University (PKU) on March 23, 2015. As part of Australian Writers' Week in China, Paul Kelly was invited to speak on the topic, "Triumph and Demise: The Rudd, Gillard and Abbott Years in Australian Politics". During the lecture, he spoke at length on the political instability and economic challenges that are plaguing Australia presently.

Paul Kelly is Editor-at-Large at The Australian

and has commented on Australian politics, public policies and international affairs for four decades. He

Walkley Award-winning *Triumph and Demise*, in which he analyses the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government

“The lecture was jointly organized by PKU's Center for Australian Studies, as well as the Youth League and Student Union of the PKU School of Foreign Languages. Paul Kelly's trip to China was supported by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and hosted by the Australian Embassy in Beijing.”

is the author of seven books, the latest of which is the

from 2007 to 2013. Director of PKU Australian Studies



Center Liu Shusen, BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies David Walker, and associate professor of the PKU School of Journalism and Communication He Shu were present at the lecture.

Political Instability

In his lecture, Mr. Kelly argued that Australian politics have gone from "stability to profound instability". From 2007 to 2013, Australia had changed prime ministers four times. Kelly believed that that it was crucial to understand these changes and the underlying forces behind them.

Mr. Kelly explained that former prime minister Kevin Rudd had waged a "brilliant campaign" against then incumbent John Howard, eventually winning a convincing victory for the Labor Party in the 2007 elections. Yet, as Kelly argued, this was achieved as part of a partnership with his deputy, Julia Gillard, who became the deputy prime minister. "Rudd became prime minister not as a result of his own strengths," Kelly believed, "but as a result of his partnership with Julia Gillard. As a team, they defeated the team of John Howard and Mark Vaile in the 2007 elections."

However, this partnership was not long-lived—their personal relationship was fractured and policy and political differences began to emerge. Gillard was persuaded by a number of senior Labor politicians to sign up for the "political execution of Rudd". Julia Gillard had announced on June 23, 2010, that she would challenge him for leadership on the following day. Knowing he would be defeated if he contested the leadership, on the morning of the ballot, Rudd resigned as prime minister. As Kelly put it, "the Australian public woke up one morning to find that Gillard was now prime

minister of the nation”.

Mr. Kelly argued that this was the turning point for Australian politics. Two prime minister-ships were destroyed. Rudd lost his position, and Gillard, as the incoming prime minister, was also “destroyed”, “because of the way she got the job”. Kelly believed that Gillard was not ready for the post, “without a proper agenda as prime minister, or a proper tactic to deal with an angry, resentful Rudd”. Gillard was relegated as a minority government leader soon after and was forced into a series of deals with the opposition. Rudd replaced her before the 2013 elections, and then Rudd lost the 2013 elections.

Economic Challenges

Mr. Kelly identified two “great economic transitions” that Australia is facing. A boom in the mining sector driven by demand from China has fuelled Australia's economy over the past decade. Yet the “story of booms is that they start dramatically and end with tears.” In the light of China's slowing expansion, Australia is now transiting from the mining sector to non-mining sectors, especially the service industry. However, according to Kelly, the service sector is

“not exposed to international trade, not competitive, and not productive”. “The service sector makes up 80% of Australia's GDP,” Mr. Kelly explained, “but less than 15% of Australian exports.”

Australia is also attempting to transit from its current budget deficit to one of surplus. Mr. Kelly stated, “There was a strong budget surplus in the past, but as a result of Australia's fiscal policy during the 2008 financial crisis, the country spent on welfare, healthcare and education by borrowing.” To return the budget to surplus, Mr. Kelly identified two methods—spending reductions and taxation increases, but noted that both are unpopular with the Australian public.

Mr. Kelly noted that current prime minister, Tony Abbott, faces a daunting challenge as he had “set up a trap for himself in his election campaign by promising to restore the budget and to do so without pain”. The result was that Abbott came up with what Kelly termed as “one of the most radical and unpopular budgets in Australian history”. Abbott had imposed higher costs on healthcare and university education

and cut back on spending on welfare, education, and other areas. Kelly argued that this was compounded by the Abbott government's failure to sufficiently explain the problem to the public. Mr. Kelly concluded by predicting that Abbott, who has already been behind in the polls for the last nine months, was likely to face defeat in the upcoming elections, “and a quite significant one at that”. If this was to come true, Kelly stated that Australia would be plunged into greater instability. ■



Roundtable Discussion on AIIB at PKU

► Wang Chao

The emergence of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has drawn worldwide attention, including scholars at Peking University (PKU). On April 15, 2015, a roundtable discussion was held by the PKU Center for International Political Economy on the theme: “Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Reform of Global Economic Governance”. Professors and students from the PKU School of International Studies along with officers from various foreign representative offices in China attended the meeting.

“AIIB, which was initiated by China, currently has over 50 founding members. The international recognition that it has won is far beyond expectations. It was very wise for AIIB to position itself as an entity that concentrates on infrastructure investment in underdeveloped Asian countries. The foundation of AIIB represents the reform of global economic governance and will act as a driving force in it.” said Dr. Yves Tiberghien, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of British Columbia, at the beginning

of the discussion. He went on to explain, “Members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) dominated the world economic system after World War II. But this system can no longer meet the needs of the developing conditions with the rise of emerging economies like China. Thus, a reform is imperative. Moreover, conflicts among the developed countries helped facilitate the rise of the AIIB. European countries like France have long been critical of America abusing its hegemony position

and have sought to limit the influence of the US and US dollar. Apparently, France and Germany look forward to balancing US dominance over global finance by joining the AIIB.”

Dr. Pang Zhongying viewed AIIB and the Belt and Road (also known as the New Silk Road) as the cornerstone of a new era of China in international relations. “China used to be the subject of bullying in modern times and was forced to open its doors by outside powers. But now things are changing. These initiatives symbolize the first time in history when China requests other countries to open up their markets.” Regarding the criticism against China’s role in international affairs, he said: “China is a founding member of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank, all of which are part of the world governance mechanism after

World War II. Also, China has made undeniable contributions to the world economy and it definitely is not, as some critics puts it—a free rider. Furthermore, the co-operation between China and European countries could enhance the role of multilateralism in international relations.”

For Dr. Chen Shaofeng, Associate Professor of the School of International Studies and Deputy Director of Center for International Political Economy at PKU, AIIB is not only beneficial to the world, but is also a good chance for young students to participate in international organizations and gain working experience at the international level. Apart from this, he acknowledged the new conception of world governance behind AIIB. “The right to speak internationally should not be allocated just according to national power; all countries should have a fair chance.” He also analyzed the

background initiative of AIIB. “America’s ‘Return to Asia’ strategy and stagnancy in the Doha Development Round are the two main factors behind the emergence of AIIB. The bank will promote the internationalization of the Chinese Yuan and in turn balance the influence of the US dollar.”

Motives behind the AIIB and its estimated impact on regional and international governance were Dr. Wang Yong’s main considerations. “AIIB rose in response to the re-balancing of the world economy after the 2008 financial crisis. Though China did a good job handling the impact of the crisis, it still has to face the pressures of economic re-balance and transition. Problems arose when the government dealt with the crisis, such as its foreign exchange reserves that was growing too fast and an obvious overcapacity situation,” said Dr. Wang, who is a professor at the School of International Studies and Director of the PKU Center for International Political Economy. Dr. Wang continued, “China’s rapid development during the crisis and the expectations from the world including the developing countries for China to assume more responsibilities should also be taken into account.” Dr. Wang believes

the AIIB is China’s response to international expectations, and he also believes that the AIIB would help enlarge the supply of financial goods in the region, which will benefit both China as well as the

entire region.

At the conclusion of the round-table discussion, Dr. Wang reiterated that “a more balanced distribution of power in the international arena will give birth to a

more pluralistic, equal, and democratic international economic governance system. The concept of mutual benefit as advocated by China will be the new model of international economic co-operation.” ■

Prof. Lei Xiaoguang’s Group Reveals the Mode of Action of a Natural Products that Inhibit Tumors and Inflammation

► Lin Zixi

A team led by Professor Lei Xiaoguang from the College of Chemistry and Molecule Engineering at Peking University recently published an article titled “Ainsliadimer A selectively inhibits IKK α/β by covalently binding a conserved cysteine” in the journal *Nature Communications* on the 27th of March, 2015.

Natural products and their derivatives have been an invaluable source for drug discovery. In addition, they are also important tools in molecular biomedical research. Natural products sometimes have pharmacological or biological activity that can be of therapeutic benefits in treating diseases. As such, natural products are the active components of

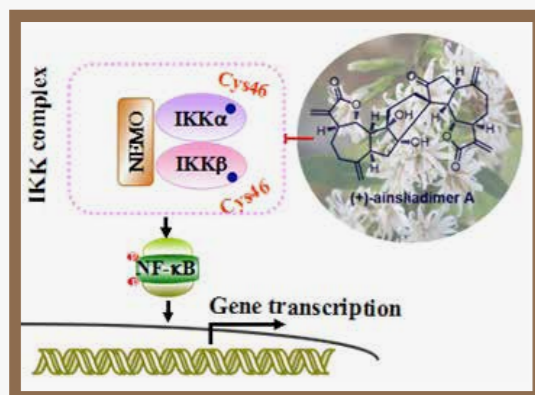
many traditional medicines. Furthermore, synthetic analogs of natural products, with improved potency and safety, can be prepared and therefore, natural products are often used as starting points for many drug discoveries. A large number of currently prescribed drugs have been either directly derived from or inspired by natural products. However, due to the intrinsic architectural complexity of many natural products and their limited natural resources, identifying functional targets and clarifying

the mechanisms of action of bioactive natural products have proven to be particularly challenging.

Prof. Lei’s team has been working on the synthesis and chemical biology studies of complex natural products for many years. In



2010, they successfully accomplished the first enantioselective total syntheses of ainsliadimer A (1), as well as that of other related dimeric and trimeric sesquiterpenoids. They also confirmed that the anti-cancer activity of ainsliatrimmer A was caused by the activation of peroxisome



proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR γ).

Aberrant activation of nuclear factor- κ B (NF- κ B) signaling pathway plays a key role in the inflammatory and immune responses of the body. It is also responsible for cell survival by regulating the transcription of numerous target genes involved in cell proliferation, cell survival, invasion, angiogenesis, and metastasis. Thus, it is associated with the development of cancer and autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

In particular, IKKs are well recognized as key regulators in the NF- κ B pathway, and therefore represent attractive targets

for intervention with small molecule inhibitors. A number of drug companies have evaluated IKK α/β as a target for treatment of inflammatory diseases and cancers, but highly selective inhibitors have been rare. Ainsliadimer A (1) is a structurally unique and complex sesquiterpene lactone dimer with an unprecedented carbon skeleton that was originally isolated from *Ainsliaea macrocephala*, a plant that has been used in traditional Chinese medicine for the treatment of various diseases, including angina and

rheumatoid arthritis.

In this research, they found that Ainsliadimer A inhibited inflammation and promoted tumor cell apoptosis activity effectively and specifically through biological activity screening. Then, based on the chemical synthesis of natural products, the molecular genetics approach, they revealed that Ainsliadimer A (1) could directly target IKK α and IKK β . By means of biochemical and mass spectrum, they determined that Ainsliadimer A inhibited IKK by direct and covalent modification of the C46 residue. Furthermore, computational study showed

that Ainsliadimer A was a novel allosteric inhibitor. Finally, Ainsliadimer A showed anti-cancer activity when treated with adenocarcinoma and exerted a comparable effect to a therapeutic anti-tumor drug.

Ainsliadimer A selectively binds to the conserved cysteine 46 residue of IKK α/β and suppresses their activities through an allosteric effect, leading to the inhibition of both canonical and non-canonical NF- κ B pathways. Remarkably, ainsliadimer A induces cell death of various cancer cells and represses in vivo tumor growth and endotoxin-mediated inflammatory responses. Therefore, it has great potential for use in the development of anticancer and anti-inflammatory therapies. According to Dr. Lei, the principal investigator of this lab, "our studies support that ainsliadimer A selectively inhibit IKK through a novel allosteric mechanism of action, which should pave the way to further develop more efficacious drug leads targeting IKK. In fact, several pharmaceutical companies have contacted us and shown interests to set up a collaboration with us to further develop the natural product derived drug candidates based on ainsliadimer A." ■



Method to Erase Fear Memory During Sleep Discovered

▣ Xin Yuan

On the 17th of March, 2015, just before the International Sleeping Day, a group of researchers led by professor Lu Lin from the Sixth Hospital, Institute of Mental Health, Peking University, published their new discoveries in the journal *Sleep*. They documented a new method to eliminate frightening memories in humans during sleep.

Having witnessed or

survived disastrous accidents, humans may be haunted by strong feelings of fear and helplessness, which may cause mental problems such as stress and depression. These experiences may result in psychiatric disorders such as phobias and posttraumatic stress disorder, which may then lead to dangerous behaviors like self-mutilation and suicide. As such forms of disorders are apt to recur and

are hard to eradicate, they can be potentially lethal to humans. Presently, clinical treatments seek to re-expose patients to fear memory until they get used to it. However, these processes may further enhance fear and ultimately do further harm to patients' mental health, hence resulting in more psychological trauma. As a result, such methods are controversial in academic circles.

Prof. Lu's team's new findings published in this issue of *Sleep* indicate a new and better possible treatment to cure this besetting mental disease. Sleep is known to facilitate the consolidation, i.e., strengthening and integration of newly formed memories, including fear memories. Reactivation of the underlying neuronal memory traces that occur during slow wave sleep (SWS) causally contributes to this consolidation process. Importantly, this reactivation can be triggered by presenting external reactivation cues (reminders) like odors and sounds during SWS. Their study shows that such external cueing during sleep can be used to extinguish fear memories. This finding is useful in showing that cueing memory reactivation during sleep not only strengthens but also weakens the memory.

In this study, human subjects were first subjected to a fear conditioning procedure, which included mild uncomfortable electrical shock. Successful conditioning was confirmed by an increase in subjects' skin conductance response (SCR) to the conditioned tone—a signal of fear. After conditioning, subjects were allowed to sleep for four hours while the conditioned tone (without electrical shock) was repeatedly presented again during slow

wave sleep (SWS). This re-exposure of the conditioned tone reduced the subsequent fear response compared to two other groups of subjects who received a different tone or did not receive any tone during SWS.

The idea to use cues during sleep for cutting out a patient's bad memories—memories such as the removal of tumors—is highly attractive to behavioral health practitioners. Beyond its clinical relevance, the issue of whether the cued reactivation of fear memory during sleep can extinguish the respective memory, tackles a basic scientific question in this field: can cueing of memory reactivations during sleep, beyond strengthening existing associations, induce new learning? Does the brain, during sleep, assess whether or not conditioned stimulus (CS) presentation is followed by the unconditioned stimulus? Alternatively, sleep might be considered a state in which neural reactivations form memory representations in “unsupervised” conditions, as there is normally no sensory

input that could be used for shaping behavior. Extinguishing human fear responses by presenting conditioned stimuli during SWS, as demonstrated by this research, tells us that new learning during sleep does indeed happen. In the same vein, these findings of inhibitory learning during sleep are complementary to recent demonstrations of excitatory learning, i.e., classical conditioning during sleep.

The first author of this research is He Jia, a doctoral candidate at Peking University. The corresponding authors are Professor Lu Lin and Professor Tang Xiangdong. This research is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Ministry of Science and Technology under the National Key Basic Research and Development Plan. ■



Multipartite Einstein–Podolsky–Rosen Steering Holds Potential to Quantum Cryptography

▣ *Won Cheng Yi Lewis*

Professor Gong Qihuang, Professor He Qiongyi, and Wang Meng from the Institute of Modern Optics, School of Physics, Peking University, have been part of a recently published research titled “Multipartite Einstein–Podolsky–Rosen steering and genuine tripartite entanglement with optical networks”. It was published in the *Nature Physics* journal on the 5th of January, 2015. The paper holds potential to the eventual development of a cryptographic method known as quantum cryptography. Quantum cryptography works based on a phenomenon known as quantum entanglement.

Quantum entanglement is a physical phenomenon that

occurs when pairs or groups of particles are generated or interact in ways such that the quantum state of each particle cannot be described independently. This means that when two entangled particles are examined, their physical properties could be observed as a whole. For example, in a system with two particles, A and B, which has a combined spin of zero, this means that the clockwise spin of particle A will equal the counter-clockwise spin of particle B. However, the interesting scenario occurs when one tries to take measurement of a single entangled particle in the system. The act of trying to measure a single particle would be akin

to causing an action upon the system, which would in turn affect the behavior of the other particle. This means that it would be impossible to know whether the other particle's equal and opposite action was a result of entanglement or a result of the measurement. This was described by Albert Einstein, Boris Podolsky, and Nathan Rosen in the 1935 paper titled, "Can Quantum-Mechanical Description of Physical Reality Be Considered Complete?"

The paper proposes to take advantage of the knowledge of quantum entanglement to create quantum cryptography. Quantum cryptography works on the basis of the principles



of quantum theory, that a measurement always changes a system. The paper dealt with the theory of creating and measuring Einstein's type of "spooky" entanglement over many different locations (called sites). As a result, whenever there is an eavesdropper trying to intercept a message encrypted by quantum cryptography, the act of eavesdropping will inevitably result in changes in the encryption system. Hence an eavesdropper can always be detectable by some means. This is a fundamental result, but nonetheless has potential application to providing security of communication. The application would be a type of quantum cryptography, in this case one based on Einstein's entanglement.

According to Professor

Margaret D. Reid from the Centre for Quantum and Optical Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, "the idea is to use the entanglement to create a 'key' that can then be used for encoding a message. This differs from existing encryption methods which rely on the mathematical difficulty of (for example) factorizing numbers to keep the key secure. It is postulated that a quantum computer would provide a way to break current encryption schemes." The significance of this research is that, quantum cryptography, when correctly used with entanglement, provides absolute security. Such technology therefore holds immense benefits to high security sectors such as the military and the banking industry.

Additional advantages of quantum cryptography include quantum secret sharing and one-sided device-independent cryptography. This means that, even if the computer terminals at the receiving station have been hacked, reliable encryption of messages can be achieved through encryption of messages on the transmitting end. However, as quantum cryptography is still in the development stage, it is hard to predict the future of their implementation.

This research receives funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the State Key Laboratory of Artificial Microstructure, and the Mesoscopic Physics and Quantum Physical Sciences 2011 Collaborative Innovation Center. ■

light". The research paper was published online in the Nature Nanotechnology journal on the 16th of March, 2015.

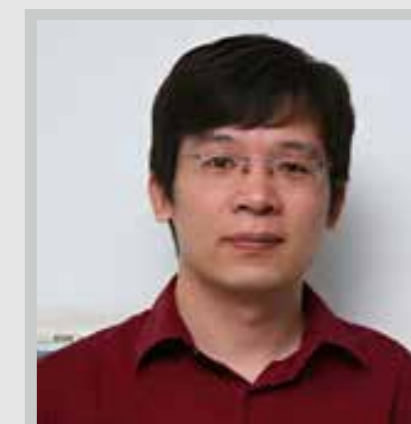
Cancer happens when the growth of cells in the human body grows out of control. The mutated cells may congregate and form cancerous tumors in our body. In order to control the growth of cells in our body, there exist many complicated and highly-regulated pathways. One such pathway is the Transforming Growth Factor β (TGF- β) cell-signaling pathway. The TGF- β regulates many developmental processes of the cells in our body, which is crucial for controlling the growth of cells in our body. Therefore, a malfunction of TGF- β pathway may result in various diseases, including cancer and kidney failure. Because TGF- β is involved in numerous important cellular processes, finding ways to control the TGF- β activation pathway is crucial to finding cure for these diseases.

Prof. Chen Xing's team has found a way to use light to control the TGF- β pathway. The fundamental scientific premise is, as cells in our human body responds, to varying degree, to signals from our external environment, the usage of these signals will allow us to control the TGF- β pathway. Specifically, these signals have effect on various cell behaviors including cell growth, migration and differentiation.

This research focuses specifically on the effects of light on the cells in the human body. Photoactivatable proteins have emerged as a powerful tool to control molecular interactions. In many existing researches, ultraviolet and visible light are the most commonly used light sources to activate these light-sensitive proteins. However, as ultraviolet or visible light have limited tissue penetration, so these methods are generally unusable in the realms of fundamental researches and in the applications of clinical treatments.

This research seeks to overcome current limitations by utilizing the single-walled carbon nanotube (SWCNT)-assisted approach. This approach enables near-infrared light-triggered activation of the TGF- β pathway.

In living organisms, TGF- β is noncovalently associated



with a latency-associated peptide (LAP) as a latent complex, known as the small latent complex (SLC), to inhibit its activity. TGF- β signal transduction is activated when and where TGF- β is released from LAP and binds its cell surface receptors. Chen Xing's group conjugated SLC onto the surface of SWCNTs (SWCNT-SLC). Based on the local heating via the photothermal effect of SWCNTs, active TGF- β was released under NIR irradiation and optical activation of TGF- β signaling pathway was achieved. They tested this strategy both in vitro and in vivo.

According to Lin Liang, co-author of this work, "this methodology could be generalized for various proteins by conjugating complexes of proteins with their blocking antibodies onto SWCNTs. The proteins carried by nanomaterials can get into cells much easier, and proteins directly delivered is usually not effective. The

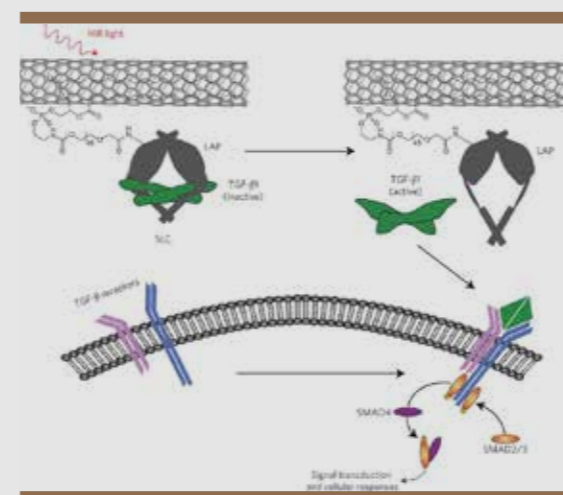
Prof. Chen Xing's Team Discovered Carbon Nanotube-assisted Optical Activation of TGF- β Signaling by Near-Infrared Light

Li Wei

Professor Chen Xing's team from the Beijing National Laboratory for Molecular Sciences, Key Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry and Molecular Engineering of the Ministry

of Education, the College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering and Synthetic and Functional Biomolecules Center, Peking University, and the Peking University-Tsinghua University Center

for Life Sciences, recently published a research that holds potential to finding a cure for cancer. It was titled "Carbon nanotube-assisted optical activation of TGF- β signaling by near-infrared



methodology allows the activation of cellular signal transductions with high temporal and spatial precisions of light, which could lead to a new method to cure disease including cancer in the future.”

Ph.D. student Lin Liang and undergraduate student Liu ling from Professor Chen's group are the co-authors of this research. Chen Yeguang's group from School of Life Sciences, Tsinghua University and Timothy Springer's group

from Harvard University also took part in the research. This work is supported by National Science Foundation of China, the MOST Project of China, and funded by the State Key Laboratory for Turbulence and Complex Systems (LTCS). ■

Team Led by Prof. Jiang Zhengfan Discovered Molecule which Holds Potential to Cure Cholera

► Bai Luolan & Gao Juyi

Cholera is an age-old disease that affects an estimated 3-5 million people worldwide and results in 100,000-120,000 deaths each year. The disease is caused by a family of bacteria named *Vibrio cholera* (*V. cholera*).

Researchers have since identified two different molecules, which may hold the key to curing cholera. The first molecule under research is called 3'3'-cyclic-GMP-AMP (3'3'-cGAMP). This molecule is generated from guanosine triphosphate (GTP) and adenosine triphosphate (ATP) by *V. cholera*. It was shown to be responsible for its efficient intestinal colonization and chemotaxis regulation, which are vital processes as *V. cholera* carries out its attack on the host body.

The second molecule that is under research is called 2'3'-cyclic-GMP-AMP (2'3'-cGAMP). Found in the body of mammals, it serves as the first barrier in the fight against pathogen infection. It does so by triggering physiological changes in the human body to counter infection by *V. Cholera*.

Both 3'3'-cGAMP and 2'3'-cGAMP belong to a group of molecules known as cyclic di-nucleotides (*c*-di-NMPs). This group of molecules acts as intracellular second messengers, modulating a variety of cellular activities, including the growth, reproduction and death of cells. Hence, researchers are particularly interested in controlling the level of *c*-di-NMPs in the human body through controlling the rate of

their degradation. The group of molecules that is responsible for the degradation of *c*-di-NMPs is known as phosphodiesterases (PDEs).

However, while other types of *c*-di-NMPs include *c*-di-GMP and *c*-di-AMP, whose degradation has been extensively studied, no PDEs

have been reported to be responsible for the hydrolyzation of cGAMP. This means that, till now, researchers have been unable to effectively control the level of cGAMP in the human body.

Recently, a research team, led by Professor Jiang Zhengfan from the School of Life Sciences, Peking University, has identified and characterized three PDEs which are able to hydrolyze 3'3'-cGAMP produced by *V. cholerae* (designated as V-cGAP1/2/3). They achieved this feat through a delicately designed eukaryotic screening system.

They discovered that the high specificity of V-cGAPs have been revealed by the *in vitro* cGAMP activity assay, which is on the 3'3'-cGAMP. However, these PDEs do not work on other forms of V-cGAPs including 2'3', 2'2', 3'2'-cGAMP.

It has been determined that all V-cGAPs linearize 3'3'-cGAMP into 5'-pApG, while V-cGAP1 further hydrolyzes 5'-pApG to produce 5'-ApG, during which it functions as both a PDE and a 5'-nucleotidase. Further *in vivo* experiments found that expression of V-cGAPs is strongly induced by 3'3'-cGAMP production, and that they exert crucial function in regulating bacterial chemotaxis and intestinal colonization, thus infectivity.

This breakthrough answered

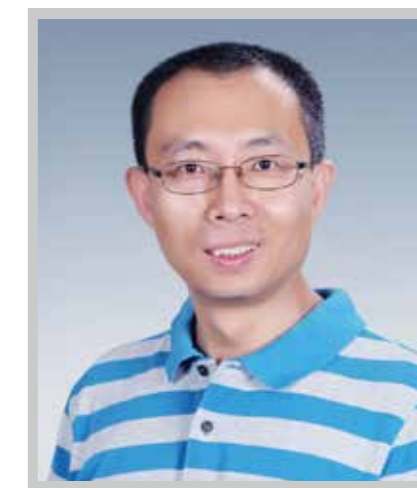
the question of how cGAMPs, the newly discovered second messengers, are degraded. As Gao, the first author of the article said, “We provide insights into the understanding of the regulatory mechanisms of cGAMP signaling in bacteria, especially in *V. cholera*. The new identified PDEs in our work, V-cGAPs, could be an ideal target for anti-cholera drugs clinically. At the same time, our results also give valuable clue for the identification and characterization of mammalian 2'3'-cGAMP-specific PDEs in future studies.” Though nothing is known about the degradation of 2'3'-cGAMP, the high specificity of V-cGAPs on 3'3'-cGAMP suggests that there should be 2'3'-cGAMP-specific PDE(s).

The article was published online on April 3, 2015, in the *Cell Research* journal. It was also elected as the cover page article of the May issue. Professor Dinshaw J. Patel from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center highlighted their research in an article named “V-cGAPs: attenuators of 3'3'-cGAMP signaling”. According to Prof. Patel, “the large amount of insightful data presented by Gao et al. has elucidated detailed information regarding the identification

and characterization of 3'3'-cGAMP-specific phosphodiesterases, thereby providing valuable insights into our understanding of the regulatory mechanisms of cGAMP signaling in bacteria.” He also mentioned that further structural work would be necessary to understand the intermolecular interactions.

Their work has drawn great academic attention upon publication. Prof. Römöling of Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, has invited Prof. Jiang to write a review on this highlighted field for the journal *Current Opinion in Microbiology*.

Gao Juyi and Tao Jianli from Jiang's lab and Dr. Liang Weili from Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention are co-first authors of this article, and they performed experiments on biochemistry, cell biology, and genetics, respectively. Corresponding authors are Prof. Su Xiaodong and Prof. Jiang Zhengfan from School of Life Sciences. ■



Yifang Senior Talent Fund Set Up for School of Life Sciences

► Liu Meina

On April 25, 2015, a ceremony was held at Yingjie Exchange Center of Peking University (PKU) to mark the establishment of the Yifang Senior Talent Fund. Xu Yong, together with his wife Chen Jing, who graduated from the PKU School of Life Sciences in 1982 and 1985, respectively, signed an agreement donating 10 million Yuan to enhance the faculty quality and teaching environment of the School of Life Sciences. PKU Vice President Gao Song and Dean of School of Life Sciences Wu Hong attended the ceremony. As a symbol of PKU's appreciation and gratitude, Dr. Xu Yong and his wife Chen Jing were presented with the PKU Educational Contribution Award.

At the ceremony, Vice President Gao expressed his

heartfelt gratitude for the couple's establishment of the Yifang Senior Talent Fund. He emphasized that the fund, the largest donation by the School of Life Sciences alumni, would be vital to the future development of life sciences education at PKU. Moreover, with the 90th anniversary of School of Life Sciences around the corner,

this newly established fund has particular significance.

As outstanding alumni of PKU, Dr. Xu Yong and Chen Jing also shared their studying and entrepreneurial experience with students at the ceremony. They expressed hope that the fund would contribute to the School's bid to become a world-class institute. ■



Peking University Yangxin Lotus Virtue Award

► Sohn Mina

On April 17, 2015, the first award ceremony for the "Peking University Yangxin Lotus Virtue Awards" was held at Peking University (PKU). Ten prize-winning students were each awarded a five thousand Yuan scholarship each. The award was established back in December 2013, and it was donated by Yang Xin—a 92-year old professor from the PKU School of Philosophy. The award aims to honor students who have demonstrated exemplary moral character and a strong sense of social responsibility while pursuing academic excellence.

At the ceremony, Prof. Yang Xin stated that the establishment of the "Yangxin Lotus Virtue Award" was not only intended to cultivate the next generation but also to achieve his own dream.



He expressed that he would continue his efforts to raise more money so that more students can benefit from the award.

Chairman of the PKU Council Zhu Shanlu attended the ceremony and expressed his heartfelt appreciation for Prof. Yang Xin's generosity. In his speech, he stated that Prof. Yang Xin's spiritual pursuit

and the moral values that he holds to when dealing with people were representative of PKU's spirit. Chairman Zhu hoped that the campus could produce more students with such noble character.

The ceremony also marked the establishment of the "Lotus Virtue Society", which was set up under the initiation of Prof. Yang Xin to promote the study and spreading of lotus and Mount Tai culture. Prof. Yang Xin is the advisor of the society and Chairman Zhu is its honorary president; the ten prize-winning students are its first members. ■

How to Give

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Laozi Statue

Standing right in front of the Centre for the Studies of Analytic Philosophy (CSAP), Peking University, Laozi stands tall and firm, a posture befitting of someone of his stature. The statue was presented to Peking University School of Philosophy class of 1982 as a gift to commemorate the School's centennial anniversary.

Laozi was a philosopher and poet of ancient China. He is best known as the reputed author of the Tao Te Ching and the founder of philosophical Taoism, but he is also revered as a deity in religious Taoism and traditional Chinese religions. Although a legendary figure, he is usually dated to around the 6th century BC. As with most other ancient Chinese philosophers, Laozi often explains his ideas by way of paradox, analogy, appropriation of ancient sayings, repetition, symmetry, rhyme, and rhythm.

It is thus both appropriate and befitting to have a statue of Laozi standing right in front of CSAP, welcoming visitors to an exciting world of philosophy.

