

Spring Festival Reception for Foreign Experts

By Staff Reporters

With Spring Festival approaching, a reception for foreign experts was hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) on January 12.

On behalf of the MOST and State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA), Li Meng, vice-minister of MOST and administrator of SAFEA, extended festival greetings and best wishes to foreign experts in China and other foreigners who contribute to China's social and economic development, via video link.

"Over the past decade, China has made remarkable achievements in scientific and technological innovation, which have also been made with the contribution of foreign experts," said Li.

Li applauded foreign experts' role in promoting international exchanges and cooperation in the fields of scientific research, technological innovation, cultural exchanges and other fields. He sincerely



Group photo of foreign experts in 2023 Foreign Experts Reception Shaanxi venue. (PHOTO: Science and Technology Department of Shaanxi province)

ly hoped more foreign experts could work and start businesses in China.

"In the future, we will continue to strengthen cooperation and exchanges and contribute more wisdom and strength to addressing common chal-

lenges of humanity and building a community with a shared future for mankind," he said.

Nearly 140 foreign experts and their families from over 40 countries and regions attended the event at the

main venue in Beijing. At the same time, sub-venues were set up in Shandong, Tianjin, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Anhui, Guangzhou, Shaanxi, Fujian, Hubei and Xizang Autonomous Region. More than 200 foreign experts attended the event on-line to celebrate the year of rabbit at the sub-venue.

During the talent show, foreign experts demonstrated the beauty of cultural diversity through their well-designed performances and shared the festival happiness via video link. Furthermore, some foreign dignitaries such as the Mayor of Cologne of Germany, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering of UK and Secretary General of American Society of Mechanical Engineers, delivered their Spring Festival wishes to participants in the form of videos and congratulatory letters.

This article is also contributed by the China Association for International Exchange of Personnel.

My China Story

Embrace More Communication in the Year of Rabbit

By LONG Yun & CHEN Chunyu

During Spring Festival Reception hosted by MOST, some foreign experts spoke to *Science and Technology Daily* about their plans and visions in new year after the optimized COVID-19 measures.

Patrick Rioual, research fellow at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is looking forward to conducting fieldwork in Sichuan with his Chinese and French colleagues in the new year. He is optimistic about the prospects of increased collaboration at a high level between the two sides.

In order to connect China and the rest of the world, Rioual established academic advancement projects with scientists all over the world. As an editor of many academic journals, he hopes that more of China's scientific achievements go global, and more papers written by Chinese scientists could be read by people outside China.

Adalberto Noyola Robles, a Mexican professor, is the director of the UNAM and BFSU Mexican Studies Center in Beijing. "China is a technology leader," said Noyola, noting that the government's well-organized plan and investments had created huge accomplishments in the sci-tech field.

Noyola anticipates increased mobility in student and scholar exchanges, following China's lifting of COVID-related travel restrictions. This year, he will play a more active role in promoting more major institutions in China and Mexico, to engage in in-depth communication in a variety of sectors, with a focus on the

scientific and technological arena.

As a director of the Sino-French Engineer School at Beihang University, Frederic Genty was impressed by a joint operation conducted by the deep-sea manned submersible Fendouzhe and its deep-sea lander at a depth of 10,000 meters below the ocean floor. The operation, the first of its kind in the world, was also live-streamed.

"We train our students to be ambassadors between China and the rest of the world," said Genty, adding that global skills enable students to be global contributors to the advancement of science and technology. He called for an increase in global cooperation with closer, more tangible and integrated ties.

According to data from the Ministry of Education, approximately 21,000 Pakistani students are enrolled in Chinese universities.

Muhammad Arif Mughal was an overseas student at the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) twelve years ago. Now he is a lecturer at the Institute of Artificial Intelligence, USTB.

Mughal spoke highly of China's advancements in energy industry, such as "artificial sun" programs.

"I am a beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative," said Mughal, adding that the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor had brought about significant improvements in his hometown. According to Mughal, China consistently makes its commitment to international collaboration. He expects to step up efforts to boost more Sino-Pakistani academic exchanges.

When Intangible Cultural Heritages Meet Lunar New Year

By Staff Reporter

The Spring Festival, also called lunar New Year, is the most important and cherished festival in China, marking a new year on the lunar calendar. It is also a public holiday in certain countries and regions, and celebrated by Chinese and some Asian people worldwide. The Spring Festival represents the wish for a new life and was inscribed on China's first list of national intangible cultural heritages in 2006. It falls on January 21 in 2023.

The activities in this important event are constantly enriched through a continually evolving series of rich legends and traditions. However, some time-honored traditions are still followed and three of these intangible cultural heritages are highlighted during the Spring Festival.

Chinese lanterns

Originating in the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC - 24 AD) more than 2,000 years ago, Chinese lanterns are an ancient traditional handicraft, which integrate different skills, including painting, paper-cutting and paper binding. It is a Chinese custom to hang red lanterns in

the New Year, which symbolizes peace and prosperity.

Nowadays, the iconic lantern is a symbol of Chinese culture worldwide instead of serving as a light source in ancient times. One of the most famous events related to the Chinese lantern is the Qinhuai Lantern Fair, a national intangible cultural heritage. During every Spring Festival, the Qinhuai Lantern Fair is held in the Confucius Temple, a scenic spot along the Qinhuai river in Nanjing, Jiangsu province.

Nianhua

Chinese New Year pictures, or Nianhua, a form of colored woodblock print, have a long history dating back to the Western Han Dynasty. The majority of Chinese homes have traditionally been decorated with Nianhua during the Spring Festival since that time.

Nianhua is no longer limited to festival decorations; its cultural and artistic value makes it a reflection of Chinese people's daily lives. The majority of the Nianhua's contents depict a prosperous and joyful life, with distinct regional characteristics. As a result, prestigious bases producing nianhua such as Yangliuqing in Tianjin, Yangjiabu in Shandong prov-



The 11-day Xiling Temple Fair opens at Jiefang Road in Yichang, Hubei province, Jan. 7, 2023. (PHOTO: VCG)

ince, and Taohuasui in Suzhou were established and rose to prominence rapidly. This traditional art was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2008.

Temple Fair

The temple fair, also known as Miaohui in Chinese, is a traditional cultural event that features all kinds of Chinese folk arts during the Spring Festival. The fair is usually held at temples or adjacent to them, hence the name. Nowadays, it has evolved into different

themes in many regions across China.

Some people can buy local specialties at the temple fair, such as flowers, birds and fish. At the same time, artisans set up stalls to show and sell handicrafts and specialty snacks. Some folk artists establish a stage for singing, dancing, story-telling, and other skills.

Temple fairs in Beijing, Shanxi, Shandong, and other regions were included in the national intangible cultural heritage list from 2008.

Carbon Reduction: A Greener China

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From the operation of the first unit of the Three Gorges Dam in 2003, to December 18, 2022, the power generated by the six large power stations totaled 3.18 trillion kW, which equals a saving of 910 million tons of standard coal, cutting CO2 emissions of about 2.4 billion tons.

New energy storage technologies

Saving electricity for future use is as important as generating clean energy. Pumped storage is traditionally adopted, but new types of energy storage technologies are now flourishing, such as new lithium-ion batteries, flow batteries, air compression and mechanical energy storage.

The energy density of lithium-ion batteries for storage has more than doubled compared with that of ten years ago, and a relatively well-rounded industrial chain has been established.

Air compression storage has also developed rapidly, and large-scale demonstration projects have begun operation. At one such project in Jintan, Jiangsu province, during off-peak hours, air is compressed into a salt cavern by electricity from where it is released to propel the air turbine to generate electricity during peak hours. The project could store 300,000 kWh during a storage cycle, the equivalent of the electricity used by 60,000 residents a day.

By the end of October 2022, the demonstration work of new energy storage technologies had been carried out in many provinces. In Shandong province, for example, over 111 million kWh of wind and solar power loss had been saved by five independent operational projects for the first half of 2022.

The saved electricity could satisfy the need of 210,000 households for a month, which equals decreasing standard coal consumption of 34,700 tons, CO2 emissions of 106,600 tons and SO2

of 3,700 tons.

Accelerating production of hydrogen energy industry

Hydrogen energy plays an important role in achieving net-zero emissions, and China has been working on green hydrogen energy generation and application.

The Sinopec green hydrogen pilot project in Kuche county, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, is the world's largest photovoltaic green hydrogen production project under construction. It is also China's first 10,000-ton photovoltaic green hydrogen pilot project. Once in operation, the project could produce 20,000 tons of green hydrogen energy per year.

Fan Linsong, general manager of Sinopec Xinjing Green Hydrogen New Energy Co. Ltd., said that 80 percent of the construction work has been completed and the project is expected to begin operation by the end of June 2023.

The project will replace natural gas with solar power to generate hydrogen, said Fan, adding that this could cut CO2 emissions of 485,000 tons annually.

In March 2022, the country released a plan for the development of hydrogen energy for the 2021-2035 period, encouraging the application of advanced hydrogen energy technologies.

Currently, trucks, forklifts, and locomotives powered by hydrogen fuel cells have been used in ports, mines and freight rail. Data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers shows that 2,400 vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells were sold from January to October 2022, a 1.5-fold increase year-on-year.

China has firmly chartered its course to go green and no doubt more innovative steps will be taken going forward to continue building a low-carbon producing country.

China-ASEAN Innovation & Entrepreneurship Competition 2022

By LIU Hao

On January 9, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of China, in partnership with the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI), announced "Dr Hearing" and "Low Carbon Combustion Device" as the winners of the China-ASEAN Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition 2022. As the first international competition jointly hosted by MOST and the ASEAN Secretariat, this competition themed "Innovation Coop-

eration for a Shared Future" focuses on technological innovation and entrepreneurship. It aims to foster technological innovation exchanges and cooperation between China and ASEAN members.

Zhang Guangjun, vice minister of MOST, expressed his appreciation for the event. "The competition is committed to implementing the consensus on the establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership reached by leaders of China and ASEAN at the ASEAN-China Special Summit Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of

ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, and has promoted exchanges and cooperation on science and technology innovation between China and ASEAN countries, enhanced the regional innovation capacity of China and ASEAN. It will be conducive to upgrading the Belt and Road Science and Technology Innovation Initiative. It is a typical case of China-ASEAN scientific and technological cooperation," he said.

The competition consisted of three rounds of selection. The competing teams showcased innovative solution

with various products in the fields of modern agriculture, bio-medicine and health, digital economy, energy conservation, and environmental protection.

Since the launch of the competition in August 2022, a total of 71 groups from ASEAN Member States and China had been selected for the semi-finals. After intense competition in the semi-final round, 20 teams (10 in the enterprise group and 10 in the team group) competed for the final crown. Winners from ASEAN and China shared the prize money totaling 402,000 RMB (around 57,600 USD).

production is still done by hand. Modern Chinese hand embroidery is still common in the southern part of China.



A work of Hunan embroidery (Xiang Xiu). (PHOTO: VCG)

Art of Chinese Embroidery

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

By BI Weizi

Chinese embroidery, one of the oldest extant needlework forms, has enjoyed an important position in the history of Chinese craftsmanship. The four major styles of Chinese embroidery are Suzhou embroidery (Su Xiu), Hunan embroidery (Xiang Xiu), Guangdong embroidery (Yue Xiu) and Sichuan embroidery (Shu Xiu). All of them

are nominated as China's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

It was stipulated in *The Book of History* 4,000 years ago that "the clothes were painted and embroidered." During the Song Dynasty (960-1279), embroidered clothing became popular among the general public, which led to its rapid development.

Chinese embroidery has a long history since the Neolithic era. Due to the quality of silk fibers, most fine Chinese embroidery is made from silk. Some remains of ancient silk production have been found at various Neolithic sites in

China dating back 5000-6000 years. Currently, the earliest existing embroideries are two pieces of embroidery unearthed from the tomb of Chu in Changsha, Hunan province during the Warring States period, showing the natural and lively expression of the dragon and the phoenix, plus the tiger and the beast.

After the opening of the Silk Road during the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD), silk production and trade flourished, and in the 14th century, silk production in China reached its peak. Today, most hand work has been replaced by machines, but some very complex