

Issue 24 October 2013

Tsinghua Newsletter





















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News & Events

Tsinghua Bamboo Slip Manuscripts Exhibited at UN Headquarters

The "Tsinghua Bamboo Manuscripts and Early Chinese Civilization" exhibition was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from August 27th to 30th.

The Tsinghua bamboo slips, consisting of 2,500 slips, were donated to Tsinghua University by an alumnus in July 2008. They were identified as late Warring States Period (around 300 B.C.) bamboo texts excavated from the area of the ancient state of Chu. The contents of the vast majority of the bamboo slips are written books. Some of the slips, categorized as "classics" or "history", are extremely important in the investigation of Chinese history and traditional culture. Most have not previously been seen in pre-Qin bamboo manuscripts.

The Tsinghua bamboo manuscripts contain a wide range of ancient classics, including philosophy, politics, history, geography, astronomy, traditional songs, mathematics, all written in formal Chu scripts.

Professor Li Xueqin and his team have been working for five years on the assorting and identification of the slips. They have already published volumes of reports on the findings from the bamboo manuscripts, including 18 arranged classical texts and 345 high-definition pictures.

According to Professor Liu Guozhong from Tsinghua's Research Center for Excavated Texts and Ancient Chinese Civilization, it will take about 15 years to have all the findings published.

Mr. Liu Jieyi, China's Ambassador to the UN, said at the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Chinese Classics written

on these bamboo slips "are not only jewels in the treasure house of Chinese culture, but also the shared wealth of the whole world". He congratulated Tsinghua on its fruitful research into the bamboo slips and appreciated the university's efforts in promoting international cultural exchanges.

During the four day event, hundreds of visitors were attracted to the exhibition. Following the exhibition, a conference on the Tsinghua bamboo slips was held at Dartmouth College in Hanover from August 30th to September 1st. That event, The Dartmouth-Tsinghua International Conference on the Tsinghua Bamboo-slip Manuscripts: The Fourth International Conference on



UN Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management Tegegnework Gettu, Liu Jieyi and Tsinghua University Council Chairman Hu Heping (from right) at the opening ceremony of the Exhibition

Excavated Chinese Manuscripts, attracted over 70 sinologists from 13 countries and regions.

During the conference, several original literary manuscripts on the slips were selected for closer reading and detailed discussion. Professor Li Xueqin delivered the Keynote Speech "The Contents of and Research on the Tsinghua Bamboo-slip Manuscripts". He also led the reading of some bamboo slips. Professor Li was awarded the Chinese Studies Emirate Award by Dartmouth's Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Language and Literature during the conference for his dedication and academic contribution.



Dartmouth-Tsinghua International Conference on the Tsinghua Bamboo-slip Manuscripts

Second World Peace Forum Held at Tsinghua

The World Peace Forum 2013, with the theme of "International Security in a Changing World: Peace, Development and Innovation", was held in Beijing from June 27th to 28th at Tsinghua University.

This year's World Peace Forum involved a higher number of participants than last year's debut conference. Current world leaders and foreign dignitaries such as Sierra Leonean President Ernest Bai Koroma, Suriname's President Desire Bouterse and many former high-ranking officials of other countries attended the opening ceremony. Around 130 officials from various foreign embassies in China, about 20 heads of international think-tanks, 500 experts and scholars from over 80 countries and foreign diplomats in China participated in this event.

While many other international security forums discuss conflicts, the Tsinghua Forum looks at global cooperation on security issues. The 2013 Tsinghua Forum emphasized discussion in four areas: Current changes in International Security Trends, Innovation in International Security, International Cooperation and International Security, and Social Development and International Security. The forum events consisted of four major conferences, roundtable discussions, and 18 small group panels, focusing on new concepts and ways of managing threats with the intention of solving problems and avoiding the possible escalation of disputes.

China's Vice President Li Yuanchao addressed the opening ceremony with a call for all nations to strengthen cooperation on security challenges and achieve long-lasting peace and common prosperity throughout the world.

Hosted by Tsinghua University and co-organized by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the forum was founded in 2012. It was the first high-level non-governmental international security forum to be organized by a Chinese educational institution, achieving this year the status of an institutional event.



Opening ceremony of Second World Peace Forum at Tsinghua

South Korea President's Speech at Tsinghua

South Korea's President Park Geun-hye delivered a speech at Tsinghua University on June 29th during her first state visit to China.

Her speech, entitled "Striding to a new period of two decades, a trip of confidence between South Korea and China", was hosted by Tsinghua's President Chen Jining. In



South Korea's President Park Geun-hye delivers a speech at Tsinghua

the speech, she called for South Korea and China to build a relationship based on "trust", encouraging more cultural and personal exchanges among youth of the two countries to enhance bilateral ties. President Park also shared her own experiences with the audience as a way of inspiring Tsinghua's students to overcome any difficulties they face in life.

President Park made both her opening remarks and ended her speech in fluent Chinese, quoting from the classics of Chinese literature. She then delivered her main address in Korean to an audience of more than 400 people. Throughout the speech, President Park stressed the cultural similarities between the two neighbors, which she believed could bring the two nations closer. She also praised both the exchange programs of the two countries, with about 60,000 student exchanges between the two countries, saying students from China and South Korea could together build and enhance Northeast Asia.

Currently, there are 1,403 South Korean students at

Tsinghua University.

China's Vice Premier Liu Yandong met with President Park, before the speech. Both of them expressed that the two countries looked to increase people-to-people exchanges.

After the speech, three Tsinghua students raised questions to President Park. She told students not to give up when faced with difficulties and make every day full of hope and dreams, "No matter how deep the pain, depression will only make you stronger, as long as you can treat difficulties as your friend

Tsinghua's MPA Program Approved by NASPAA

life".

them the books as gifts.

Tsinghua's MPA program has become the first among universities in China to receive international certification from the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). The association granted the prestigious certification on July 16th.

Xue Lan, Dean of Tsinghua's School of Public Policy and Management, said since the MPA program was initiated in 2001, the school has enrolled nearly 2,000 students. During an evaluation in 2006 of the first group of MPA schools and colleges, the school was awarded a Straight-A result. Besides the ordinary MPA class, the school also offers a MPA-E program for senior government officials of China and an IMPA English program for senior government officials of developing countries.

NASPAA, founded in 1970, is a union of public administration schools across the world and is regarded as the most authoritative certification organization in international public administration education. The aim is to ensure schools to provide highly-skilled and competitive graduates with

and see sincerity as a lighthouse to move forward in your

of Tsinghua University, presented President Park with a

model of the university's old gate. She was also presented a

calligraphy work by Feng Youlan, whose philosophical books

accompanied her during her difficult years in the 1970s. She

also signed her autobiography for Tsinghua students and gave

University Council Chairman Hu Heping, on behalf

a spirit of social service through strict evaluation of the education quality of their respective public administration programs. Among NASPAA's over 280 school and college members, more than 160 have been successfully certificated in the past 40 years.

Professor and Alumnus Elected to AE and CAE

Tsinghua's Chair Professor Wang Ning of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures was elected a Foreign Academician of the Academia Europaea (The Academy of Europe) in September in Wroclaw, Poland.

Professor Wang is the first Chinese mainland humanities scholar to gain such an honor. This year, AE only elected two new members to its academy.

Professor Wang has been working at Tsinghua's Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures since 2000. He is also director of the Center for Comparative Literature and Culture Studies. He is dedicated to modern theory, postmodernism, globalization and cultural issues, as well as world literature.

In June 2013, Tsinghua alumnus Chen Tongwen, a tenured professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Alberta, was elected a member of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) for his status as an international authority on computer controlled systems and control over networks. This year, CAE elected 47 members to its academy.

Professor Chen received his bachelor degree in Automation and Instrumentation from Tsinghua University in 1984, and his masters and Ph.D. degrees in the University of Toronto in 1988 and 1991, respectively. He is also an Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Fellow and a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.



Wang Ning

Chen Tongwen



Student Education & Development

Tsinghua Launches 24th Symposium on Teaching and Learning

Tsinghua's 24th Symposium on Teaching and Learning was launched at the university on September 26th. The theme for this year's symposium is "Innovating Education Modes, Inspiring Academic Interest, and Improving Education Quality".

The symposium has two stages. The first will be discussion and introspection, and the second looking



Tsinghua President Chen Jining speaks at the Opening Ceremony



Tsinghua University Council Chairman Hu Heping speaks at the Opening Ceremony

at adjustment and reform. According to Tsinghua's President Chen Jining, the key point of the symposium will be to inspire the academic interests of students. He hopes it will establish a better study pattern of the integration of conveying



Tsinghua's 24th Symposium on Teaching and Learning

knowledge, cultivating abilities and shaping values.

Tsinghua University Council Chairman Hu Heping said this year's symposium would focus on "academic". This means improving academic quality in the University and its departments, promoting academic value of faculty members, and increasing the academic interests and capabilities of students.

The 24th Symposium on Teaching and Learning would last till June, 2014. During the months ahead Tsinghua will gather comments and suggestions by undertaking a series of seminars, panel discussions and surveys including ones on alumni's situation. Meanwhile, forums and discussions on the internet will be opened. President Chen has sent an email message to all faculty members, students and alumni asking for their participation and suggestions.

Tsinghua's Symposium on Teaching and Learning, first launched in 1953, is held every four years.

THRONE Completes the Sixth Mission of IARC

Tsinghua student team THRONE completed the Sixth Mission and won the "Best Mission Completion Award" in the 2013 International Aerial Robotics Competition (IARC) held from August 2nd to 9th at Tsinghua.

The sixth Mission "Covert Operation" was launched in 2010 as an extension of the fifth Mission theme of autonomous



indoor flight behavior. This espionage mission challenge involved covertly stealing a flash drive from a particular room in a building, for which there was no prior knowledge of the floor structure, and depositing an identical drive to avoid detection of the theft.

The THRONE quadrotor air vehicle successfully completed the sixth mission

Student Education & Development

with autonomous navigation while other teams were still striving to control their air vehicle to penetrate the building without detection. It also gave an extraordinary performance at the extra upgraded difficulty competition, impressing all the competitors, and was described by organizers of IARC as "outstanding".

To fulfill the task perfectly, the THRONE team wrote about 20,000 lines of code in their system program which was nearly 20 times more than the other Chinese team. To prepare for the competition, all the team members worked almost 18 hours a day and slept in the laboratory for two months to debug the programs. Finally they completed the task within just eight minutes that until now has been challenged continuously without success for four years. All of the other 31 teams from seven countries failed in the complicated exercise. The team was presented with an exclusive US\$40,000 prize accumulated over four years by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International Foundation.

Mr. Daryl Davidson, director of the Association for Unmanned Vehicles Systems International congratulated them and said Tsinghua THRONE team completed the "mission impossible" again and again. It was outstanding and very impressive.

Instructed by Professor Dai Qionghai from the Department of Automation and supported by National Basic Research Program, NSFC and Innovative Research Team Project of Tsinghua TNList, the THRONE Team was established in May, 2012 and consists of 15 students from the Department of Automation and Tsien's excellence education program. The



The THRONE Team with Daryl Davidson, Director of the Association for Unmanned Vehicles Systems International

team is led by Li Yipeng, a post-doctor from the Department of Automation.

The International Aerial Robotics Competition started in 1991 and is the longest running university-based robotics competition in the world. It shows the research capacity of universities around the world in unmanned aerial vehicle control and autonomous navigation. It does this by setting a challenge for student teams with missions requiring complex autonomous robotic behavior. This year's final was held in August simultaneously in China and in the USA. A new Seventh Mission Challenge has now been set by IARC.

ADD Students Win World Design Award with 'Third Eye' Glasses

Three postgraduate students from Tsinghua's Academy of Arts and Design (AAD) - Bai Ying, Liu Yuanyuan and Jiang Xiaowei, won a top award in the iF Concept Design Competition in late July for designing a special pair of spectacles aiming to help elderly people.

Their design work 'The Third Eye', was selected into the top ten from over 10,000 entries around the world. It took the three designers over six months to complete the work under the guidance of Professor Qiu Song.

The idea of 'The Third Eye' originated from the fact that it is inconvenient for aged people with eyesight problems to carry both short-sighted glasses and presbyopic glasses all the time. The unique feature of their 'The Third Eye' is based on the bionics principle that the ciliary muscles enable the eyes' own lenses to adjust naturally to accommodate the viewing of objects at varying distances. By adjusting the distance between the upper and lower edges of their 'Third Eye' frame, wearers can change the lenses to achieve either concave or convex shaped lenses. When the middle part of the frame is 'pinched', with the lenses



The winners (from left: Bai Ying, Jiang Xiaowei, Liu Yuanyuan) and their supervisor Professor Qiu Song

bulging, the Third Eye becomes presbyopic glasses. When the button between the lenses is pressed, the lenses return to shortsighted glasses. Thus the "Third Eye" glasses successfully achieve the simple switchover between short-sighted glasses



and presbyopic glasses in one single pair of glasses. The lenses are made from an elastic membrane material packing the liquid and the frame from the memory metal material.

The iF Design Award, based in Germany, is regarded as one of the world's most famous and authoritative of its kind with the longest history in global design.



"The Third Eye" Glasses and the operation sketch

Tsinghua Team Wins Fourth World-Famous Universities Rowing Regatta

The men's rowing team of eight from Tsinghua won the championship in this year's world-famous universities rowing regatta, held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province on July 21st.

Twelve rowing teams from a number of famous universities, including Cambridge and Yale, were invited to take part in the competition. Tsinghua University and Xi'an Jiaotong University were among the four Chinese universities taking part in the competition.

The second place for men was taken by the team from Netherlands' Amsterdam University which had ranked first in the preliminary match. Cambridge University came third, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University took fourth.

This year for the first time separate races were added for university women's teams, which attracted six teams from the world.

The final of the women's championship was a battle between University of Otago and Panthéon-Assas University



from Paris, with the former crossing the finishing line first. Third place went to London University. The annual event, initiated in 2010, was hosted by the General Administration of Sport of China, China Rowing Association and the local government in Chengdu.

Research & Achievements

Longest Carbon Nanotubes Made at Tsinghua

A research team led by Professor Wei Fei from Tsinghua's Department of Chemical Engineering has successfully synthesized the world's longest carbon nanotubes, measuring 550mm in length.

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs), a typical one-dimensional carbon molecule, are one of the strongest materials ever known. The extraordinary mechanical properties make CNTs ideal materials



Illustration of tip-growth of ultra-long CNTs

for super-strong fibers, ballistic armors, and even space elevators connecting the earth and the moon.

The research team includes faculty members and students from both the Department of Chemical Engineering and Tsinghua's Center for Nano and Micro Electronics. They found the growth of ultra-long CNTs can be interpreted using Schulz-Flory

Research & Achievements

(SF) distribution, a mathematical function that describes the relative ratios of polymers of different length after a polymerization process, based on their relative probabilities of occurrence.

Associate Professor Zhang Yingying said, "The Schulz-Flory distribution successfully explains why the areal density of ultra-long carbon nanotubes decreases along the length direction and how to synthesize ultra-long carbon nanotubes with high areal density and high ratio of long ones."

The size and number distribution of ultra-long CNTs is controlled by catalyst activity probability, which can be expressed by SF distribution. The catalyst activity probability can be tuned by varying the growing parameters. High catalyst activity probability will lead to long CNTs with a high number density. Optimizing the growing parameters and applying a "furnace-moving" method, the team synthesized 550mm-long CNTs with perfect structures, which are so far the longest in the world. Previously, the longest CNT reported was just 20 centimeters in length.

"The carbon nanotubes we made are of perfect structure, extraordinary mechanical properties, and longer length. We are now working on meter-scale CNTs and even hope to make a kilometer-scale CNT," said Professor Wei Fei. Their findings bridge for the first time the Schulz-Flory distribution and the synthesis of one-dimensional nano-materials, and shed new light on the rational design of process towards controlled production of nanotubes and nanowires.

A paper on this breakthrough, Growth of Half-Meter Long Carbon Nanotubes Based on Schulz-Flory Distribution, was recently published by ACS Nano online. It is authored by Zhang Rufan, Zhang Yingying, Zhang Qiang, Xie Huanhuan, Qian Weizhong, and Wei Fei.



The research team, from left, Zhang Qiang, Zhang Yingying, Wei Fei, Zhang Rufan, Qian Weizhong and Xie Huanhuan

Microbes Help to Predict Climate Change on the Tibetan Plateau

The Tibetan plateau, known as the roof of the world for its high elevation or the third pole, is one of the regions most threatened by climate change. Soil microbes drive a variety of biogeochemical processes such as carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur cycles, and consequently provide critical ecosystem services, such as soil fertility and greenhouse gas mitigation.

A research team led by Professor Yang Yunfeng from Tsinghua's School of Environment has carried out the first investigation on the microbial gene diversity of the Tibetan grasslands. They found that the grasslands, covering about one third of the Tibetan plateau, had undergone obvious changes with the influences of livestock grazing and global warming.

They published findings early this year showing how the functional structure of the soil's microbial community responded to livestock grazing in the Tibetan alpine grasslands. Then Professor Yang's team focused their research on the diversity of the microbial gene on the Tibetan grasslands. By employing a space-for-time substitution strategy, they used a metagenomics tool named GeoChip to survey microbial gene diversity along the elevation from 3,200 to 3,800 meters.

They found that major factors affecting soil microbial communities were annual air temperature and soil ammonium

content. They predicted that climate changes in the Tibetan grasslands were very likely to change soil microbial community functional structure, with particular impacts on microbial nitrogen-cycle genes and consequently microbially mediated soil nitrogen dynamics.

Over the past three decades, the Tibetan plateau temperature has risen twice as fast as the global average. According to the team's findings, microbes should also be incorporated into climate models in order to accurately predict climate change in this region. Their research findings have been published in the *ISME Journal*.



Students work at the field

Tsinghua Faculties Accomplish ISO Standard on Energy Performance of Buildings

An international standard on energy consumption data in building, ISO 12655, was published recently. It is the first time that Chinese scientists have made a major contribution to an ISO standard on energy efficiency in buildings.

Three faculty members from Tsinghua's School of



Low Energy Demo Building at Tsinghua

Architecture, Professor Jiang Yi, academician of China's Academy of Engineering, Dr. Wei Qingpeng and Dr. Liu Xiaohua led the editing team which included scientists from the Netherlands, Japan, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, US, UK, and Germany under a Joint Working Group (JWG) of ISO/TC 163 and TC 205.

The "2013 Energy Performance of Buildings -Presentation of Measured Energy Use of Buildings" sets out a consistent methodology to present energy use in buildings, which is specified clearly with the energy usage, corresponding boundary and the energy data. It is applicable to the presentation of energy use of civil buildings for data collection, metering, statistics, audit and analysis.

The standard was first proposed in April 2008. After five years of consultation and editing, it was finally approved by ISO in 2013.

Tsinghua faculty members have been engaged in many research projects related to the energy conservation and efficiency of buildings.

Social Links

Tsinghua Students Donate Clothes to Needy Areas

More than 7,000 items of clothing were collected in just two days on June 29th and 30th as Tsinghua students began this year's annual donation event. Besides students, donors also included university alumni and faculty members.

The donation event, launched in 2000, was organized by the Commonweal Association of Tsinghua University. With their spirit of "Love the World and Warm the Hearts", members of the association hold the clothes donation event annually as their traditional activity. They also set a permanent room for dropping-off items on a daily basis. Every year, up to 50,000 pieces of clothing from the donation event are delivered to needy areas, most of which are in northern and western China, or disaster-hit areas. Until now the total number of items distributed amounts to 335,000 pieces.

Currently, the Commonweal Association of Tsinghua University is cooperating with several partners, who help sending donated clothes to remote and impoverished areas. The donated clothes are classified and disinfected, and then



Students sort donated clothes

distributed to places in greatest need. In addition, some clothes are sent to the most poverty-stricken regions of western China as a part of the "Warming Western China" initiative.

Apart from clothing, student organizers also collected donated books, aiming to build a library for the university's security team.

The Commonweal Association of Tsinghua University is composed of more than 100 students who share a dedication to help people in need. Their activities include voluntary teaching to the poor, clothes donation and community service

Ph.D. Candidates Serve Society with Summer Internships

More than 1,000 Ph.D. candidates spent their summer vacation this year carrying out research projects, field studies and other social services. They journeyed to 22 cities, serving various enterprises, administrative organizations and social groups. In summer internships, the Ph.D. candidates participated in more than 1,000 research projects, solving nearly 500 technical difficulties and training about 26,600 people. They have applied for tens of national patents and completed dozens of academic papers.

In Binzhou city in Shandong Province, 574 Tsinghua postgraduates have been assigned to 256 enterprises or administrative organizations during the past 22 years. They were involved in 440 research projects and trained 20,000 people, achieving social benefits worth around RMB 2 billion Yuan.

In the Xiangcheng District of Suzhou City, 79 Ph.D. candidates were invited to work with 27 enterprises on 71 scientific projects. After five years, the number of technical difficulties the students helped to solve reached almost 50.

Jing Yu, a Ph.D. candidate from the Department of

for the aged.

"Our mission is to spread the sense of commonweal, and to promote the awareness of public interest," said Xiao Hongyi, the chair of the association, who is a senior student from the Department of Thermal Engineering.

Chemical Engineering helped with a project in Foshan city, improving the purity of an electronic grade eight fluorine propane gas, from 90 percent pure to 99.88 percent. He has now been invited again this year by the same company to tutor and work on other technical tasks.

Wang Jingjing, a Ph.D. candidate from the Department of Electronic Engineering developed a flood information system using an Android device. Wang said that tackling research projects with the appointed departments offers university students the opportunity to learn how to work effectively and integrate theory to practice. Engaging with the wider community is a good way to learn how to make efforts to achieve a clear goal.

The services offered by Tsinghua Ph.D. candidates gained a lot of praise from people in the community. The CEO of a scientific corporation in Foshan City in Guangdong Province indicated that solutions to a video problem achieved by Tsinghua students and employees of the enterprise in 2012 have now led to new products being launched onto the market this year.



Wang Yiqun is welding circuit board in Suzhou City



Wang Juanfei tests patient's blood specimens in Xinjiang Province

Wu Guanzheng Donates RMB One Million to New Tsinghua Fund

A ceremony for the founding of the "Tsinghua University Yuhong Fund" was held at Tsinghua on September 23rd.

Tsinghua alumnus Wu Guanzheng, a former member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, has donated his author's remuneration of his new book to set up the endowment fund. In addition to the initial RMB one million Yuan, the fund will continue to use the interest from the endowment fund annually to help students in financial difficulties.

Tsinghua's President Chen Jining expressed thanks for Mr Wu's great support to the development of Tsinghua University. Ms Zhang Jinshang, Wu's wife, signed the donation





Donation Ceremony of the Tsinghua University Yuhong Fund

agreement on behalf of her husband. President Chen and Li Jiaqiang, General Secretary of Tsinghua University Education Foundation, also signed the donation documents.

Mr Wu Guanzheng, began his studies at Tsinghua's Department of Power in 1959 and majored in thermal measurement and automatic control both for his undergraduate and graduate studies. His new book is a collection of his memoirs, literary essays, prose, miscellany, stories and conversations.

Zhang Jinshang said at the ceremony the fund would provide financial aid to assist needy students from low income families. She hopes it will help students to focus on study and contribute to China and to society in the future.

Hengli's Chen Jianhua Donates RMB 300 Million for New SEM Building



The Donation Ceremony

Hengli Group President Chen Jianhua has donated RMB 300 million to Tsinghua's School of Economics and Management (SEM). It is the largest single donation the School has ever received.

The donation signing ceremony was held on July 24th. Tsinghua's President Chen Jining, Hengli Group President Chen Jianhua and Li Jiaqiang, General Secretary of Tsinghua's Education Foundation, attended the ceremony and signed the donation agreement.

The donated fund will be used for the construction of a new teaching building for SEM, which will start in 2014.

Hengli Group, based in China's Jiangsu Province, employs more than 50,000 people. It is the world's largest textile corporation.

International Cooperation & Exchange

ASPIRE Forum 2013 Held at Tsinghua

The Asian Science and Technology Pioneering Institutes of Research and Education League held its ASPIRE Forum 2013 at Tsinghua on July 11th and 12th. Vice presidents from all the five ASPIRE League universities attended the Forum. Professor Yuan Si, Vice President of Tsinghua University acted as Chairperson of ASPIRE League.

ASPIRE Forum is the annual meeting of ASPIRE League, a consortium of five leading universities in science and technology in Asia, namely Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Nanyang Technological University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Tsinghua University.

Featuring academic exchange and education, ASPIRE Forum 2013 was themed "The Development and Utilization of New Energy" and consisted of symposiums, a meeting of Vice Presidents and Senior Staff, a linked Student Week, and a visit to Tsinghua's Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology (INET). This year's Symposium composed five lectures by speakers from each ASPIRE League university and reports on three research projects supported by ASPIRE

International Cooperation & Exchange



League Research Grants.

Twenty-nine postgraduates from the five universities participated in the Student Week events, starting with an orientation session on July 7th, with study trips to new energy related institutions and companies in Beijing, Shandong and Hebei Province. On their return to Tsinghua, the students shared their findings and thoughts on three subthemes: The Status Quo and Future of New Energy Development, The Role of Education in New Energy Development and Utilization, and The Evolution of Lifestyle with New Energy Utilization.

In 2014, Tsinghua will again host the next ASPIRE Forum.

Tsinghua-MIT Global MBA Program Launched

Tsinghua and Massachusetts Institute of Technology have jointly launched the Tsinghua-MIT Global MBA Program.

Professor Qian Yingyi, Dean of Tsinghua's School of Economic and Management, and Professor S.P. Kothari, Deputy Dean of MIT Sloan School of Management announced the initiative on behalf of the two partners at a ceremony in Beijing on July 16th, 2013.

The bilingual program will enrol its first 120 students in the fall of 2014. The admission process has begun. Half of the students will come from overseas. Tsinghua SEM will incorporate its distinguished faculty members as well as executives from a number of prominent business entities to deliver courses for the program.

As one of the first business schools to offer the pilot MBA program in China, Tsinghua SEM has been committed to innovation-led development since 1991, said Professor Qian. As globalization becomes a world trend, the education of business schools should not only incorporate Chinese elements, but also be consistent with the basic principles of business practices across the globe. It means MBA students can learn how to better adapt themselves to the trend of globalization, and manage and lead companies and organizations in the context of globalization.

Professor Kothari from MIT said the launch of the new

Joint Research on Sustainable Transportation with Daimler

A new agreement was signed by Tsinghua and Daimler Greater China Ltd. on June 24th to set up a Joint Research Center for Sustainable Transportation.

The Center, with an annual funding of RMB three million from Daimler, will support forward-looking research projects relating to sustainable transportation in China's specific road



Professor S.P. Kothari, Professor Qian Yingyi, and Professor Li Jinliang, Associate Dean of Tsinghua SEM (from left) at the launching ceremony

program demonstrated the substantial changes and latest trends occurring today. In a globalized world, people need to mobilize all kinds of resources in different places to tackle common problems. He noted that MIT and Tsinghua had maintained sound cooperation for 17 years. By developing cooperation with Tsinghua, MIT can learn more about the corporate and social cultures of China.

Cooperation between Tsinghua SEM and MIT Sloan dates back to 1996. Visiting scholars from each institutes constantly facilitated academic exchanges between the two partners. The global MBA program is another step to deepen strategic cooperation between the two sides.

environment, such as active and passive safety systems, accident research and integrated traffic information services. Experienced scholars and experts from both sides will jointly lead research projects.

Professor Li Keqiang, Chair of the Department of Automotive Engineering, is Director of the joint center.



Associate Professor Li Meng from Tsinghua's Department of Civil Engineering was appointed Deputy Director of the Center.

Professor Jiang Shengyao, Vice President of Tsinghua University, said at the signing ceremony, "We believe the cooperation will bring the best out of both partners and so contribute to the development of a sustainable transportation environment that suits the characteristics of China's road environment."

Mr. Klaus Mannsperger, Head of RD China of Daimler Greater China Ltd, said, "Through our long-term partnership with Tsinghua University, China's leading engineering university, we will be better able to optimize our products for use on China's roads and tailor the latest technologies to Chinese customer's preferences."



Professor Li Keqiang, Professor Jiang Shengyao, Mr. Klaus Mannsperger and Dr. Oliver Storz (from left) at the signing ceremony

Education Outlook

China Universities First Shared Courses Wins Praise

The first group of China universities' online shared courses was delivered recently. A total of 78 universities were involved, marking another important step in offering video courses to the public.

Around 120 different courses, covering a wide range of subjects including science, engineering, literature, law, economics and education, have been made available on the "icourse" website. There are 84 undergraduate courses, 22 high vocational technology courses and 14 networked educational courses. Over 1,400 professors and lecturers from prestigious universities in China have contributed to the courses. accessible. Tsinghua University and Peking University both joined the international course-sharing platform, edX. Tsinghua has opened two courses on the web up to now, including "Principles of Electric Circuits" and "History of Chinese Architecture". Tsinghua has also built its own Mass Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform "xuetangX" and opened nine free courses.

Many young people in China have started to involve themselves in this new learning form instead of watching TV. Some of them continue to learn and earn credits on the MOOC platform. The public expectation is that more and more universities will follow the growing trend of MOOC, offering a varied choice of learning.

A lot of the courses have been innovated to cater for different needs of the public. For example, South China University of Technology delivered "Architecture Design", Nankai University offered "University Language and Literature", while Central University of Finance and Economics presented "Finance". All of the measures won high praise from course participants.

China's high-quality education resources will in future be more easily



The website of icourse



The websites of xuetangX

Most Popular Undergraduate Majors in Chinese Universities

A ranking report of "The most popular majors in Chinese Universities" was unveiled recently by a website named Choosing Universities. It collected and analyzed all the data of the undergraduates' majors in universities of China, which gives the public a glimpse at what majors universities like to set.

According to China's Ministry of Education, there are 1,166 universities offering bachelor degrees in China. The report shows, among all these universities, 77.4% of them offer English as an undergraduate major, placing English in the top position in the rankings. The others in the top ten are Computer Science, Marketing, International Economy and Trade, Accounting, Electronic and Information Engineering, Information Management and System, Arts and Design, Tourism Management and Business Administration.

The ranking statistics also show Management and Engineering are the hottest discipline in universities, which have 46 and 169 majors respectively. Many traditional disciplines which have a strong knowledge base and stable social work needs are quite common, such as English, Chinese literature, Mathematics, Economics, Journalism, Arts and Chemistry.

Among China's 39 most prestigious universities, known as the 985 project universities, Tsinghua University ranked first with 24 hottest disciplines listed as strong teaching and research abilities.

The ranking list has also compared the majors on their

employment performance. It shows students with special skills and trained in the top majors will be offered higher salaries in their future careers, such as architecture, software engineering, computer science, and web engineering. The analysis also shows other students who majored in English, Music or Painting found it harder to get higher paid jobs when they are fresh out of university due to the greater number of universities teaching the same majors.

In the past three years, China's Ministry of Education has cancelled over 50 undergraduate majors and adjusted over 1,200 others. There will be more changes in undergraduate major subjects in the future to accommodate social development needs, according to China's Ministry of Education.



A physics class at Tsinghua

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