

8th Soong Ching Ling Int'l Summer Camp opens in Beijing



An international summer camp opens in Beijing on July 17, bringing over 200 children from 16 countries. [Photo provided to China.org.cn]

An international summer camp opened in Beijing on July 17, bringing over 200 children from 16 countries.

Under the theme of “In China, Be Friends,” the camp is sponsored by the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation (CSCLF), a Beijing-based NGO named after the late wife of Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

The week-long event, already in its 8th year, aims to further promote the consensus achieved during last May’s Belt and Road Forum (BRF) to enhance communication between the younger generation of various countries and strengthen people-to-people exchanges through various group activities, exhibitions, talent shows, cultural carnivals as well as sightseeing around China, the foundation stated.



Young people from different countries play games during an ice-breaking session of the 8th Soong Ching Ling International Summer Camp in Beijing on July 17. [Photo provided to China.org.cn]

Hang Yuanxiang, CSCLF's standing vice chairman, speaking at the camp's opening ceremony, declared: "Through this event, we hope young people could get closer, promote exchanges of different civilizations and contribute to a better and peaceful world when they grow up."

Aimar Poom, a team manager of four Estonian teenagers, said it would be a very exciting experience for youngsters being in China along with peers of different skin colors and cultural backgrounds.

Beside their stay in Beijing, participants will go on separate trips to north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Jiangsu Province and Shanghai to experience the country's traditional culture and development.

[China's first crawfish college to add more taste to industry](#)



People enjoy themselves at a crawfish banquet during a crawfish festival in Xuyi county, east China's Jiangsu Province, June 13, 2017. Over 30,000 people attend the event and eat 35 tons of crayfishes provided by 47 local shops. [Photo/Xinhua]

A popular snack in China, crawfish has spawned a new professional industry with an occupational school in Hubei Province set to train students in all aspects of the crustacean, reported thepaper.cn.

The Jiangnan Art Vocational College in Qianjiang city has enrolled 86 students in crawfish-related majors. From the fall semester, students will study 2-3 year courses on catering management, marketing, and cooking and nutrition.

The city is one of the major producers of crawfish in China. Cooking and exporting the freshwater crustacean is a main income source for local farmers.

In May 2016, the college set up a crawfish school, the only one of its kind in China, as the city aimed to boost the industry by cultivating more crawfish breeders, cooks and opening more crawfish restaurants.

"Despite the rapid growth of the crawfish industry, managerial professionals are still in shortage," Xia Zhizhong, a recruitment officer at the school, said.

China is the world's largest crawfish producer. By mid-2016, the number of restaurants selling crawfish was triple the number of KFC outlets in China.

More details emerge in deadly apartment fire set by nanny



An apartment catches fire on June 22 in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, leaving four people dead. [File Photo]

Hangzhou authorities have released more details in the case of a nanny accused of setting fire to an apartment in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China News Service reported on Monday.

At a news conference, the authorities said the nanny had used her mobile phone to learn how to set a fire. They also said the property management company failed to maintain safe facilities and to provide emergency response.

The police said Mo Huanjing, 34, confessed after her arrest, and was charged on July 1 with arson and theft in connection with the blaze that swept through an apartment in a residential building on June 22. The fire killed a mother and her three children, aged 6 to 11 years, Li Bing, deputy director of the Shangcheng district public security bureau, said at the news conference.

Mo was addicted to online gambling, Li said. She had worked as a babysitter since 2015 in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province, and in Shanghai, but was fired three times after being accused of theft.

She had worked for the family caught in the fire since September and had stolen items she subsequently pawned for 130,000 yuan (US\$19,000) to pay off gambling debts. Mo also borrowed 114,000 yuan from her employer, claiming she

needed to buy a house for her parents. During the investigation, the police discovered that Mo had searched such key words as “lighter”, “sofa fire” and “curtain fire” from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. on the day of the blaze, the news service reported.

Later, at 4:55 a.m., Mo used a lighter to set fire to a book on a tea table. The fire spread to the sofa, got out of control and frightened Mo, who fled, leaving the mother and three children to die.

Firefighters arrived at the scene at 5:11 a.m., but the fire engine was blocked. Firemen rescued seven people but failed to reach the blazing room. Insufficient fire hydrant pressure prevented fire suppression and delayed the rescue effort, the report said.

According to Chen, the property management company had many problems with its emergency preparedness, including staff members who didn't know how to switch on a fire hydrant pump manually.

Flight delayed 5 hours after kid 'sneaks' on board



A Juneyao Airlines flight from Beijing to Shanghai was delayed five hours after a child was found in the aircraft without a ticket, the airline said yesterday. [Photo/Shanghai Daily]

A Juneyao Airlines flight from Beijing to Shanghai was delayed five hours after a child was found in the aircraft without a ticket, the airline said yesterday.

Crew on Flight H01252, which was scheduled to take off at 6:55 a.m. on Sunday, found the child on board without a ticket.

The child passed the security check, the boarding gate and a final check before boarding the plane with the help of his family. He was accompanied by two adults and another two children, according to the Beijing Capital International Airport.

The five were asked to get off the aircraft, while all other passengers on the flight were asked to go through the security check again.

The flight eventually took off around noon after being delayed for nearly five hours. The child's age and gender were not given.

According to civil aviation regulations, the security check authority should

inspect the certificates of passengers along with other safety checks. If the authority failed to perform the duty, the civil aviation authority can face fines up to 30,000 yuan (US\$4,433).

The airline has reported the incident to the Civil Aviation Administration of China, which has launched an investigation and will publicize the outcome, the airline told Shanghai Daily.

The Shanghai-based airline issued a statement yesterday to remind passengers that children aged 2 and over need a ticket and must be accompanied by an adult. Even an infant who does not occupy a seat needs an infant ticket.

The airline said it was also investigating the incident with the Beijing airport authority and the agent company which manages passengers.

The parents of the child should take the main responsibility, while the ground service company and airport authority should take minor responsibility, said Li Xiaojin, a civil aviation expert with the Civil Aviation University of China.

"Other passengers on the flight can sue them and ask for compensation for the five-hour delay," Li said.

[Xi urges faster opening up, better business environment](#)

China should improve its investment and market environment, accelerate opening up to the outside world and lower operating costs, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Monday.

The country should "create a stable, fair, transparent and predictable business environment, and speed up efforts to build an open economy in a bid to promote the sustainable and healthy development of the Chinese economy," Xi said at a meeting of the Central Leading Group on Finance and Economic Affairs.

An important goal of building an open economy is to stimulate improvement of domestic institutions and laws for higher efficiency and greater competitive strength in the global market, said the president.

Foreign investment has played a significant role in China's economic development, promoting reasonable allocation of resources and driving market-oriented reforms, he told the meeting.

China should continue to make good use of foreign investment to advance supply-side structural reforms, upgrade the economy, and catch up with global

technology development, Xi said.

He urged faster efforts to lift restrictions on foreign access to and ownership in sectors such as child care, elderly care, architectural design, accounting, auditing, commerce, logistics, e-commerce, general manufacturing and services.

The “negative list” approach on foreign investment management, which has been adopted in the country’s pilot free trade zones, should be expanded to the whole nation as soon as possible, he said.

A negative list approach identifies sectors and businesses that are off-limits or restricted for investment.

Xi also called for faster work to unify laws and regulations on domestic and foreign businesses and make new fundamental laws on foreign investment.

Laws, rules, and policies out of tune with the overall direction and principle of opening up should be abolished or revised within a time limit, and national treatment in laws and policies should be granted to foreign-funded companies after they enter the market, the president said.

Xi urged megacities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen to take the lead in improving business environment, demanding moves to reduce inspections and fines on companies and ban illegal fee charging.

He stressed the importance of protecting intellectual property rights (IPR), calling on authorities to better laws and regulations, improve the quality and efficiency of intellectual property examinations, and speed up institutional improvement for IPR protection related to emerging sectors and new business types.

Wrongdoing should be punished more severely so that IPR infringers will pay heavy prices, said the president.

Speaking of the financial sector, Xi said those areas that help protect consumers’ rights and interests, promote orderly competition, and prevent financial risks should be opened up faster.

He demanded efforts to advance opening-up of the capital account in an orderly manner, and steadily push the yuan to become an international currency.

The yuan’s exchange rate formation mechanism should be improved, and the currency’s value should be kept basically stable at a reasonable and balanced level, Xi said.

To keep up with the pace of financial opening up, China must have a strong regulatory capability, the president noted.

He urged financial regulators to learn from international experience, address weak links and improve the way of regulation.

On foreign trade, Xi stressed expanding imports while stabilizing exports to promote balance of payment under the current account.

He demanded measures to make foreign trade more liberalized and convenient, saying institutional costs of import should be lowered, quarantine and custom clearance be streamlined, and that companies' complaints be better addressed.

Authorities must study reducing tariffs on certain consumer goods and encourage the import of specialty products, Xi said.

A market environment featuring fair play should be created in the country, giving businesses equal treatment in tariff collection, import quarantine and marketing to let consumers and the market have the say, according to the president, who is also head of the leading group.

The meeting was also attended by Premier Li Keqiang, who is deputy head of the group, and Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, a member of the group.