

[Beijing to hold its 1st leisure carnival](#)

From September 22-30, Beijing will host a high-profile leisure carnival, involving a leisure conference, an expo and a gala fashion show, Wu Xiaojie, deputy head of the capital's Pinggu District, announced at a press conference in Beijing yesterday.



Beijing will host a leisure conference as well as a leisure expo and gala show, according to a press conference held in Beijing on September 19. Wang Degang (second left), vice president of China Tourism Association, Wu Xiaojie (second right), deputy head of the capital's Pinggu District and Wang Xiaodong (right), deputy head of Pinggu District attended the press conference. [Photo/China.org.cn by Guo Xiaohong]

The first China (Beijing) Leisure Conference will be held September 22-24, said Wu.

Under a theme of "leisure enhancing life quality," the three-day conference will bring together hundreds of domestic and foreign experts, entrepreneurs and officials from international leisure organizations, travel associations, leisure-based enterprises and tourism cities.

They will explore new findings in leisure research and innovation, and share their experience on how to further promote the leisure industry through four academic forums that form part of the conference.

The leisure carnival will also include cultural and related events including the 2017 International Leisure Industry Expo and Leisure and Fashion Gala, showcasing the latest trends in leisure vogue, diversity and new products.

These activities will help people embrace a new lifestyle, and, in return, boost the leisure industry, Wang Degang, vice president of China Tourism

Association, said at the same press conference.

“We have entered an era where leisure has become a new form of productivity,” said Wang.

He continued: “The leisure industry combines travel, sports, entertainment and the arts,” adding that he hoped it could become a contributor to people’s health and happiness while helping adjust the national economic structure.

According to Wu Xiaojie, Pinggu will stage two more such carnivals in 2018 and 2019 respectively as a prelude to convening the 16th World Leisure Conference in 2020.

Pinggu District, known as an area focusing on ecology with 66.5 percent of forest coverage, boasts a number of titles such as being a land of peaches, calligraphy and ornamental stones. It has designated leisure as its pillar industry and is fully geared up for the upcoming carnival, Wu said confidently.

The upcoming leisure is being organized by the China Tourism Association, Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development and Pinggu District government, as well as the executive committee of the 2020 World Leisure Conference.

Fruitful results seen in Hebei’s disabled care efforts

Hebei Province in northern China has a large disabled population. Over the past 30 years, the care for the disabled in the province has developed rapidly, and many disabled people have benefited from the work.



Ding Yukun is seen in a recent photo. [Photo: China Plus]

Born with congenital spina bifida, 35-year-old Ding Yukun had to have both of her legs amputated in 2008 due to recurrent inflammation. But since then she has started an online business.

She said she tried to apply for several jobs before the amputation, but there was little that was suitable for her.

“When I was nearly 20 years old, I started to look around for a job. I had tried many fields, but they didn’t seem to be suitable for me. In 2008, I had amputation surgery, and then, I began my online business at home. The Internet is fantastic! It has given me wings and taken me to wherever I want to go.”

But learning to use a computer was not easy for Ding, because she never attended school. Her doctor once asserted that she wouldn’t make it through 12 years old.

She learned to read with the help of a dictionary and then learned typing and surfing the Internet.

For the first month, she worked 10 hours every day on the Internet as a copyreader. And she remembered clearly that her “first bucket of gold” was 270 yuan, around 40 US dollars.

Now, as a successful e-commerce businesswoman, Ding is busy with helping other disabled people. She provides an online platform to sell handicrafts made by the disabled.

Ding Yukun is one of 5.2 million disabled people in Hebei Province.

In the last five years since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held, over 10,000 disabled people in Hebei have started businesses online. The provincial government has supported 100 shops opened by the disabled on Taobao, China's largest e-commerce platform.

Also, nearly 250,000 disabled people have received training, and over 620,000 rural disabled people have been employed.

Zhu Lijie, Chairman of Hebei Disabled Persons' Federation, said laws and regulations are adequate to guarantee the disabled persons' rights.

"Under the '13th Five-Year Plan,' we have developed a solid framework for the disabled-related work we need to do. Previously, what we can do is to donate or establish a charity for them, but now, education, medical treatment, rehabilitation training, social security, protection of human rights and related issues have all been considered."

She added that 80% of all disabled in the province are expected to receive rehabilitation training by 2020.

Giant QR code mocked as unscannable

A giant QR code in north China's Hebei Province has left people wondering what to make of the design, which can only be scanned from high above the ground.



A giant QR code in north China's Hebei Province has left people wondering what to make of the design, which can only be scanned from high above the ground. [Photo/Xinhua]

The QR, or quick response, code in Xilinshui, a village in the city of Baoding, is made up of 130,000 Chinese juniper trees arranged to cover an area of 6.7 hectares.

The code directs mobile users to an account that promotes local tourism.

The account is managed by Haomeng Linshui Agriculture Technological Co Ltd, which claims to offer a wide range of services, including agricultural tourism and catering businesses.

The story has aroused public interest but has been mocked as a publicity gimmick with many people asking how mobile phone users are supposed to scan the code.

"Aren't we supposed to power off our phones on airplanes?" was one comment on Weibo.

"First of all, you need a helicopter," read another.

Xilinshui boasts forests, clean rivers and beautiful mountains. It was named one of the most beautiful villages in Hebei in 2015, according to the Baoding government.

QR codes are becoming increasingly popular in China, particularly for making mobile payments, and for publicity purposes.

By the end of June 2017, China had 724 million mobile phone users.

Anti-telefraud app aims to boost security

A new anti-telefraud app that can identify phone numbers used in frauds and filter out phishing websites is being shown at an internet security event in Shanghai that concludes on Sept 24.

The annual event, first held in 2014, is part of the country's effort to provide security in cyberspace.

The app was co-developed by the anti-telecom crime office of the State Council and e-commerce giant Alibaba.

The Central Leading Group for Cyberspace Affairs was established in 2014 and has enacted a cybersecurity law and regulations, tightened supervision and cracked down on online crime.

"Cybersecurity includes the security of the people as well as the nation," said Shen Yi, deputy director of the Cyberspace Governance Study Center at Fudan University. He said internet security cannot be evaluated solely by technical indicators but also had to bring public benefits.

China's web users are enjoying a cleaner internet environment since various governmental departments have acted to clean up cyberspace. In a recent campaign led by the National Office Against Pornographic and Illegal Publications, an investigative team seized 50 suspects, destroyed 118 websites and took down 913 online billboards that were considered pornographic or that traded in personal information.

The office closed 73 illegal livestreaming platforms in the first half of this year and imposed lifetime bans on 1,879 streamers who severely violated regulations.

In 2016 alone, Chinese law enforcement confiscated more than 16 million illegal publications and banned more than 14,000 websites deemed harmful.

Internet forums are also being targeted. The Cyberspace Administration of China published a list of rules in August, requiring real-name registration on bulletin boards. Many believe it will contain the spread of obscenity, violence, terrorism and false information. The regulations will take effect on Oct 1.

To standardize the way internet companies collect, store, use and transfer private information, several government departments have examined the privacy policies of 10 popular domestic internet products and services. The move aims to prevent criminals from illegally obtaining personal information from the internet. Internet companies are also playing an active role in the fight

against cybercrimes.

In May, a piece of malicious software called WannaCry attacked computers worldwide. Internet security companies, including Qihoo 360, Tencent and Kingsoft Security, have since increased their security services.

A total of 1,116 “internet police offices” have been set up by the Ministry of Public Security and internet companies including Baidu and Tencent in an attempt to investigate illegal information posted on their websites.

Twenty-one universities have cybersecurity colleges, and China plans to create up to six international-standard internet security institutes over the next decade.

But a gap remains in the education of cybersecurity professionals. As of last year, China had only 143 internet security majors across 126 universities – only 10 percent of the country’s technology universities.

Students steer clear of physics in gaokao

Over the past few days, Fang Zhong, head of the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Physics, has become something of an online celebrity.

“I hope you choose physics, and fall in love with it,” Fang told freshmen at a Beijing high school in August.

The remark was a response to a worrying decline in the love for physics among senior high school students. Among the 290,000 students from Zhejiang province who took this year’s gaokao – the annual college entrance exam – only 80,000, or 27.5 percent, picked physics as a prime area of interest. In Shanghai, it was 30 percent. The test is geared toward the subjects a student selects.

Criticized for forcing students to choose between science and liberal arts – requiring them to choose one path or the other – Shanghai and Zhejiang province have been running a revised system. Students can choose any three of six subjects listed, along with compulsory Chinese, math and English. But students consider physics to be difficult and don’t want to risk their gaokao score, so they tend not to pick it.

“Students who are good at science but weak in physics tended to replace it with a humanities subject,” said a physics teacher surnamed Hou in Zhejiang. “Those subjects are seen as safer.”

The situation has raised concerns, especially among educators.

“Physics is the basis for many other natural sciences,” said Li Yuwei, a physics teacher at the high school affiliated with Beijing Normal University. “Those with a physics background who transfer to other majors are more likely to succeed.”

Xiong Bingqi, vice-president of the 21st Century Education Research Institute, said that students and their parents need to think about quality and personality, not just blindly pursue higher marks.

“As long as that doesn’t change, the new gaokao will be no different from the old gaokao,” he said.

The Ministry of Education has set new standards on science in primary schools that took effect this semester. The standards stress inspiring children’s curiosity and desire for knowledge, while regulating teaching methods.

“Younger kids are very curious about a lot of things, making it easier to get them interested,” said Liu Ying, a doctoral supervisor at Peking University.

Still, Xiong Bingqi wants more to be done. He thinks colleges should separate exam results from enrollment.

“Only then can we make science education an inspiration,” he said.