

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.60 NO.5-6 FEBRUARY 2, 2017

北京商报 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM

WORLD
ECONOMIC
FORUM

DAVOS FORUM SPECIAL

A LEADING VISION

China's global
development strategy



RMB6.00
USD1.70
AUD3.00
GBP1.20
CAD2.60
CHF2.60
JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914178



邮发代号2-922 · 国内统一刊号: CN11-1576/G2

EDITOR'S DESK

02 Firm Advocate of Globalization

THIS WEEK

WORLD

24 Resurfaced Dispute

Japan maintains the wrong attitude toward its WWII war crimes

NATION

28 Startup Heaven

Multi-faceted incubator sets the trend for innovation hubs

30 Keeping the Faith

Christianity flourishes under religious freedom policy

32 Crossing Cultural Borders

Young Hui ethnic minority people facilitate international exchanges

BUSINESS

36 A Good Omen on the Horizon

Foreign trade returns to growth in 2016

38 AIB: A Dream Provider

New bank has a bright future, says adviser

40 Market Watch

CULTURE

42 Welcoming the Year of the Rooster

A collection of images depicting Spring Festival preparations

FORUM

46 Do Online Startups Pose a Risk to the Real Economy?

EXPAT'S EYE

48 A Humble Holiday

A foreigner's experience of the Lunar New Year in China

Cover Photo: Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2017 in Davos, Switzerland, on January 17 (XINHUA)

©2017 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.



DAVOS FORUM SPECIAL

P.12 | A Clear Vision Amidst Uncertainty
President Xi Jinping sets out China's strategy for global recovery and prosperity

P.16 | Fleshing Out an Alternative
World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2017 is a watershed moment for China

P.18 | Growing Influence
Expert discusses China's expanding contributions to the international community

P.20 | Leading the Way
Xi promotes fairer and more balanced global governance

P.22 | Defending Globalization
China's commitment to globalization strengthens global economic development foundations

P.23 | Recognizing Africa
World Economic Forum participation can help Africa find its own development path

www.bjreview.com



Follow us on



YouTube

BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140) is published weekly for US\$61.00 per year by Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080, Periodical Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Beijing Review, Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080



A Humble Holiday

By Brian Kuhl

My first Spring Festival in China, 10 years ago, was spent in the island province of Hainan, where I had lived the previous year—my first in China. I had arrived in Hainan with no great knowledge of the country or its customs, able to speak only a few common words. The agricultural university where I taught was itself basically a rural village, which was both fascinating and frustrating; I faced a steep learning curve and a long period of culture shock.

My students there were from nearly every province, and they told me things were very different in different locations across China. Our location was remote, they said, and even many customs were not the same. I felt a bit like an official in ancient times, out of favor with the court and exiled to a corner of the kingdom far from the center of culture. When the year ended, I moved to a university in Zhejiang to experience a more typical Chinese lifestyle; now I was returning to Hainan for the first time.

The main reason, I admit, was for the climate. In Zhejiang, most buildings—including my apartment—were unheated, and I had trouble staying warm as winter came on. But I also thought it would be nice to see my former students, some of whom were staying on campus for the Spring Festival since Hainan was too far from their homes to make the trip. When I arrived, they welcomed me back like an elder brother and helped me get settled in the campus guesthouse.

They were eager to practice their English, and I enjoyed their company, so we often got together. One day, some of us traveled to the Dongpo Academy just up the coast. Su Dongpo (Su Shi) was a famous official and polymath in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), and the academy was built where he was sent when he—yes—fell out of favor with the court. It seemed only fitting to visit where another had lived in exile on the island.

Another afternoon, a group of us went for a walk out among the fields behind campus where local farmers grew crops, using water buffalo to work the land. I saw a less guarded side to my students as they joked

along the way and teased each other. Our walk ended late in the afternoon, back at the center of campus, so we decided to go for dinner. We got a private room with a large round table. As the dishes began to arrive, the boy sitting with his back to the door turned around each time it opened and another dish was set down on the Lazy Susan. Someone said he needn't turn around like that: He knew what dishes they ordered and they would appear before him within seconds. "He just wants to watch the pretty waitresses!" another quipped.

When the Spring Festival eve arrived, several students invited me to celebrate it with them in their dorm, where they would cook dinner. I arrived at about 6 p.m., with Longjing and Anji tea I had brought with me as a gift. The students politely would not let me help, so I sat as we chatted and they prepared our many dishes. Music was played from a battery-powered radio, the only possible source because the room's electricity limit was already reached by the hot plate and rice cooker; turning on the computer would blow a fuse.

After dinner, with the cooking appliances safely off and the computer switched on, we watched part of a movie until 8 p.m., when the China Central Television Spring Festival Gala came on. One girl gamely attempted to translate all of it for me in real time, including the fast-paced crosstalk sketches. As we watched, the students began calling home. One by one, they got on the dorm phone (cheaper than mobile phones) as they sent their families New Year's greetings, laughing and crying at the sound of their voices. For most, it was their first Spring Festival away from home.

Later we visited more students in another building where one gave me fruit as a gift. I shared it with them before returning to my room so they could go light fireworks. Courteous as ever, they walked me back to the guesthouse. As they left, one girl excitedly said she might stay up all night. I, on the other hand, turned in, kept awake for a while by loud booms and firecrackers until past



A Spring Festival market in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province

midnight, when they slowly died down and I drifted to sleep.

Our holiday that year was simple—nothing flashy or ostentatious. Perhaps that's what made it so special. We had nothing to distract ourselves from the age-old custom of sharing a meal. I'm still in touch with many of those students and count them among my good friends. That year we were all exiles, one American and a dozen or so Chinese, forging a bond simply by keeping each other company. ■

The author is an American who has lived in China
Copyedited by Chris Surtees
Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com