

Egyptian Media Expert's Notebook about China

My China Story

By XU Qingqun and LONG Yun

Hala Metwally, an Egyptian media expert, has been fascinated with China's historical legacy and cultural achievements since she was a young girl. She kept clipping articles from the newspaper about China and has been keeping a China-related "notebook" of sorts for years. In 1992, while a student majoring

in Chinese at Ain Shams University in Egypt, Metwally developed a dream to work at China's Xinhua News Agency. Four years later, her dream became a reality when she was employed in the Arabic editorial department of Xinhua's Middle East general branch in Cairo. In 2011, after being selected to work as a revising expert at Xinhua's headquarters in Beijing, Metwally began a new chapter in her life in the Chinese capital.

She has now been devoted to being a communication link between China and the Arab world for more than 26 years

with the magic of language. Her work mainly focuses on translating, reviewing, and editing the foreign-language articles submitted by journalists, which is highly demanding and carries a great responsibility. In order to better connect China with the world, Metwally checks all aspects of the content and presentation of the articles sent from Xinhua's branch offices. "She is very hard-working and diligent, and never complains about anything," her colleagues noted, saying she is a role model at work.

While working at Xinhua News Agency, Metwally has experienced and covered many unforgettable moments, including the return of Hong Kong and Macau to China, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and other significant events. She said these historical moments fully reflect that the wisdom of Chinese people lies in the old saying, "Where there is a will, there is a way."

According to Metwally, her work on the revisions allowed her to help the world gain a better sense of China and its development, including the country's achievements and its commitment to the rest of the world. "Although sometimes a sentence, a phrase, or even a word has to be reviewed over and over again carefully, I will feel happy after changing the article into a wonderful story. I think that makes this work so attractive," she said.

Based on her experience in cross-cultural communication, she believes

that the media in China could incorporate more "Chinese stories" into their reporting. The most appealing narratives are those that are both emotionally engaging and real.

Metwally said the miraculous success China has achieved in reducing poverty, has not only allowed the entire Chinese population to share in the benefits of reform and development, but also helped to advance the fight against poverty worldwide. Many people around the world will be inspired by the stories behind the numbers that show China has accomplished its first centenary goal.

On the topic of the Belt and Road Initiative, she said China is currently funding a number of large-scale initiatives in Egypt, and many other smaller projects are also being undertaken that will have a more direct impact on the daily lives of Egyptians.

From her perspective, more effective international communication can be expected along with the increase in reports of China's role in assisting other countries' citizens in their pursuit of economic development and better living standards. When asked about her plans for the future, Metwally hoped to use her writing to help more people in the Middle East and beyond learn about, appreciate, and even fall in love with China.

This story is in cooperation with the International Talent Magazine published by Foreign Talent Research Center of MOST.



Ms Hala Metwally. (PHOTO: the International Talent Magazine)

Technology Empowers Cultural Industry

By Staff Reporters

The 18th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair (ICIF) was held from December 28, 2022 to January 2, 2023.

This fair attracted over 2,500 governmental groups, cultural organizations and enterprises who attended offline, as well as over 800 online participants. Forums, investment promotion activities and artwork auctions were organized to highlight the latest development trends, and facilitate transactions and cooperation in cultural industries.

According to the organizer, this year's fair aims to show how technology,

especially digitalization, empowers the cultural industry in China. The ICIF set up an online International Pavilion and an on-site experience area to focus on displaying projects and products such as cultural and creative art, while striving to promote exchanges and mutual learning in the international cultural industry.

According to Xinhua News Agency, since its founding in 2004, the cultural fair has attracted more than 100,000 creative cultural exhibitions every year, and over 4,000 industrial investment and financing projects were signed and displayed annually, giving impetus to high-quality development of China's cultural industries.



The picture shows a digital art exhibition held in Jiangsu exhibition zone presents an interactive view that allows visitors to immerse themselves into Nanjing. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Expats Activities

12th Beijing Tour for Overseas Talents Launched

By Staff Reporters

The 12th Beijing Tour for Overseas Talents was successfully held online on December 22, 2022. The event attracted more than 13,000 overseas experts from more than 10 countries, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Singapore and the UK.

This event, hosted by Beijing Overseas Talents Center, aims to build a systematic and whole-chain talent innovation service platform through a series of online and offline activities. The online activities focus on the key industrial fields of Beijing's innovation development, staging of global promotion sessions, introduce Beijing's favorable policies, release information on the policies to attract experts, employment positions and treatment of experts in Beijing's municipal districts,

build an online contact platform, and help overseas experts match job demands in a timely manner. The offline activities will invite foreign experts to Beijing to get first hand knowledge of proceedings and attend seminars, in which policy-related questions will be answered.

Guests and experts' representatives noted that the successful holding of the event showed that Beijing attaches great importance to foreign experts, reflects the improvement of Beijing's experts' policy and innovation environment, and further smooths the communication channels for foreign experts. The event will provide strong support to help Beijing build a high-level talent base, and promote the high-quality development of the capital in the new era.

Source: Beijing Overseas Talents Center

Sci-tech Blueprint for 2023 Outlined

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- Coordinating and promoting the establishment of the international sci-tech innovation center and regional sci-tech innovation centers, and creating an ecology for innovation and business starting at a leading international level.
- Boosting the principal role of enterprises in sci-tech innovation, and guiding enterprises to cultivate sci-tech innovation capabilities and competitiveness by making full use of the market.

- Improving the strategic distribution of human resources, and creating a workforce with highly skilled sci-tech personnel.
- Extending international sci-tech exchange and cooperation, and forming an innovative and open ecology with global competitiveness.

Work should be done to lay a solid foundation for China to join the ranks of the world's most innovative countries, and become a leading country in science and technology, the conference noted.

Chinese-built Hospital Opens in Kuwait

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According to the Kuwait Central Bureau of Statistics, Kuwait's foreign population reached nearly 2.8 million in 2022, constituting a major source of labor of the country. The completion of the Kuwait Health Assurance Hospitals will help reduce the pressure on the country's medical resources and improve its social security system.

This is the achievement of China-Kuwait cooperation, said Zhang Jianwei, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait at the ceremony, adding that the hospital's opening represents further evidence of China's active promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative and Kuwait's 2035 National Vision, and the continuous deepening of bilateral cooperation.

Service Info

Q&A on Second COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot

Edited by BI Weizi

Recently, the State Council's Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism issued a plan to deploy the second dose of COVID-19 booster vaccination, which explains who should get the vaccine, and what vaccine should be given for the second booster.

Q1: Who should get a second dose of vaccine booster shot?

A: At this stage, the elderly and other vulnerable groups are at continuous risk of being infected, and vaccination is still an important tool in preventing and controlling the pandemic.

In order to proactively protect the health of communities and populations, high-risk groups, elderly people over 60, people with serious underlying diseases and people with low immunity, can receive the second booster dose six months after the first one.

Q2: What is the point of a second antibody shot now?

A: Protective immunity provided by vaccines is predicated on the production of antibodies, cellular immunity and existence of immunological memory.

After vaccination, the antibody level will decrease over time. In addition, as the virus mutates, immune escape increases and antibody responses weaken.

However, cellular immunity plays a more lasting role in preventing severe illness and mortality. Studies have shown that booster shots evoke the body's immune memory cells and also boosts antibody levels, further cementing the preventive effect against serious illness and death.

As long as they are eligible for vaccination, those who have not completed booster shots should do so as soon as possible.

Q3: Which vaccines can be given

for the second booster shot?

A: All thirteen vaccines that are currently approved for conditional marketing or emergency use can be used for the second booster shot. Priority is given to sequential immunizations, or vaccines containing Omicron strains, or with good cross-immunity to Omicron strains.

Sequential immunization is a vaccination strategy that uses vaccines with different technical routes for heterogenic enhanced immunity. If you have received three doses of inactivated vaccine, you can choose any of recombinant protein vaccines, adenovirus vector vaccines or vaccines using influenza virus as vectors for the second booster shot.

Q4: How safe is the second booster shot?

A: China CDC's monitoring of adverse reactions to over 3.4 billion doses, and over 1.3 billion people who have

been vaccinated in China found that the incidence of adverse reactions is comparable to some other vaccines given year-round, and the incidence in the elderly is slightly lower than that of young people. People with chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, which are in a stable phase, can still be vaccinated.

Q5: Is a second booster shot recommended to people after testing positive for COVID-19?

A: According to the current technical guidelines for vaccination against the novel coronavirus, there should be an interval of at least six months between infection and vaccination.

At present, hybrid immunity, which is the immunity acquired from both prior infection and vaccination, offers better protection against COVID-19 than single infection-induced immunity. So a second booster shot is still recommended wherever possible.

Top 10 Most Attractive Chinese Cities for Expats

By Staff Reporters

An annual survey titled *Amazing China — the Most Attractive Chinese Cities for Expats in 2021*, released its results to the public recently. Beijing topped the list, followed by Shanghai, Hangzhou, Shenzhen, Qingdao, Guangzhou, Suzhou, Nanjing, Wuhan and Chengdu.

In addition to the ten most attractive cities on the list, the survey also lists cities with the most potential to attract foreign professionals, namely Xi'an, Jinan, Chongqing, Kunming, Tianjin, Wuxi, Yantai, Hefei, Changsha and Xiamen.

Starting in March 2022, the annual survey's goal is to promote the openness

of cities and improve services for foreign experts. Results were analyzed from 5625 votes from foreign experts, including Nobel Prize winners and Chinese Government Friendship Award recipients, who voted online and chose from a list of 41 candidate cities.

The evaluation was based on each city's ability to attract foreign experts, re-

lated services for these people.

In order to continuously improve service for expats, the annual survey has been hosted by the Foreign Talent Research Center under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) since 2010.

Source: the Foreign Talent Research Center under the MOST

The 23rd Solar Term: Xiaohan

By BI Weizi

The "Twenty-four Solar Terms" is a system of knowledge and social practice developed by ancient Chinese people. Originating from the Yellow River basin in ancient times, the 24 Solar Terms have since been widely adopted in China as well as its neighbouring countries. In 2006, the 24 Solar Terms were selected as the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage representative items. In

2016, they were listed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Xiaohan (lesser cold) is the 23rd solar term, which falls on January 5, 2023. It begins when the sun reaches the celestial longitude of 285° and ends when it reaches the longitude of 300°. During Xiaohan, the heat absorbed during the day is less than the heat released at night, so the temperature in the northern hemisphere is continuing to drop.



The first snow in Beijing on Xiaohan on January 20, 2022. (PHOTO: VCG)