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Sichuan Opera keeps alive Qing Dynasty traditions

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6TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

CHINADAILY

美国版
USA

MONDAY, February 23, 2015

中國日報

chinadailyusa.com \$1

Editor's note: We're 6 years old today... and counting. China Daily USA is keeping the world up to date on the most important bilateral relationship of the century.

DIPLOMACY



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) greets Linas Linkevicius, minister of foreign affairs of Lithuania, on Sunday in New York. Wang will chair the United Nations Security Council open debate on Monday, which will focus on the maintenance of international peace and security, and reaffirming a strong commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. AMY HE / CHINA DAILY

Foreign minister to preside at UN

By AMY HE
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Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will preside over the UN Security Council's open debate on Monday that commemorates the 70th anniversary of the founding of the world body. The special debate will focus on maintaining international security by "reflecting on history" and reaffirming the commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

The debate topic was chosen by China, which is serving as this month's president of the 15-member council. Five of the countries are permanent members and have veto power; 10

are non-permanent.

Liu Jieyi, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, said when he assumed the presidency that the purpose of the debate is to commemorate 70th anniversary and the victory over fascism.

"It is also an occasion to commit ourselves to peace and security in the world, to promoting international fairness, and also to foster a new model of international relations based on cooperation and win-win," Liu said at a media briefing on Feb 3. "We need to make sure that the charter principles and purposes are upheld. Such important principles include sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, equal participation in inter-



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Liu Jieyi, China's permanent representative to the UN

national affairs and people in those countries in question."

Liu said that the debate will be an opportunity for the countries to look at how the UN can best achieve peaceful settlement of disputes, and how to involve regional organizations and concerned countries in resolving disputes through dialogue, negotiation, and other peaceful means.

The debate will be time for "stock taking and forward looking," Liu said, leading up to the UN's commemorative events taking place in September.

"It is also very important platform to foster the notion of integrated solutions to conflicts and to disputes. In so many areas, conflicts are a result of deep-seated, socioeconomic

problems, so it is important to foster the notion of seeking integrated solutions to conflicts by incorporating the developmental aspect of conflict resolution," he said.

"We will of course work with other countries so that the council plays a constructive and effective role in maximizing the impact on the issues under its review or discussion in different parts of the world. And of course, China will, as we have done in the past, engage the other members, the Secretariats, outside the Security Council, to draw upon their perspectives, advice, and proposals, so that the council's work will be more broad-based in dealing with various issues," he added.

DANCE

Ballet appreciated as form of valuable cultural exchange

By LIU CHANG
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Unlike opera and drama, ballet dancing, a form of body art, involves techniques of physical movement to express a dancer's emotion, said Wang Ye, a principal dancer with the National Ballet of China.

Although body language is harder to understand than verbal communication, Wang believes it is open to an audience's interpretation, adding that, "When I dance, I want you to be able to understand my expression to you and [for you to] know what I am doing."

Wang joined ballet dancers from the National Ballet and the Richmond Ballet in Virginia, where they performed Don Quixote on Feb 20 at the Carpenter Theatre in Richmond.

Wang, who played the lead role of Kitri, said she was impressed by the emotional state of the dancers in the Richmond Ballet troupe.

"Everyone is passionate in dance," she said. "And the master of the Richmond Ballet interprets Don Quixote to me very clearly."

She has performed in the National Ballet of China's productions of Don Quixote, Le Corsaire, Romeo and Juliet, Serenade and In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated. She began studying ballet at the age of 10 for seven years consecutively before a decade-long career in the National Ballet. She recalled those years as a mix of hardship and perseverance.

"It is not limited to the ballet dancing, because whatever profession, it involves hardship," said Wang, who in her spare time enjoys shopping and going to cinema with friends and reading books. "I felt it was dull in the middle

of my learning years. But I love dancing, and gradually found ballet dancing is such a beautiful thing in life. So I gained a deeper understanding of why I want to dance and how to dance."

Although it was Wang's first time in Richmond, she has been on several international tours with the National Ballet. "Every time I go to a new place, I gained different experiences, which zooms in a new life horizon in my eyes."

Stoner Winslett, the founding artistic director of the Richmond Ballet, believes that ballet dancers can inspire by demonstrating unlimited human potential and beauty. She said that the vision of her organization is to help transform the world through the unique, special power of dance.

The Richmond Ballet this year initiated the New Road to China program. From May 22-30, the troupe will perform at the Meet in Beijing Arts Festival and stop in Dezhou, Jinan, and Shanghai.

Wang said that friendships between the Chinese and American dancers have formed. "Soon I will meet with them ... in Beijing," said Wang.

Cody Beaton of the Richmond Ballet, who played the role of Kitri's friend, also became friendly with Wang. "It's a good experience for both of the troupes," said Beaton, who said that she was excited to go to China to perform in May.

"Wang and Ma bring such a beautiful light to the Richmond Ballet," said Matthew Frain of the Richmond Ballet. "Working with dancers from a completely different side of the world is a valuable experience."

SEE "CULTURAL" PAGE 3



Wang Ye and Ma Xiaodong as Kitri and Basilio, guest artists from the National Ballet of China, in Richmond Ballet's Don Quixote at the Carpenter Theatre in Richmond, VA on February 20. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

ENVIRONMENT

Climate pact offers improved relations

By PAUL WELITZKIN
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The drive for a global climate-change agreement by the end of 2015 offers the best scenario to improve US-China relations, according to observers.

The goal of cleaner air and water has both nations trying new things and cooperating on research and development to help both economies rely less on fossil fuels, said Melanie Hart, director for China policy at the Center for American Progress.

"Climate change represents the best opportunity to deepen US-China relations," she told China Daily.

"I believe there is a tremendous opportunity for the US and China to cooperate on climate change," said Sarah Forbes, senior associate at the World Resources Institute in an interview. "Cooperation will provide benefits for both nations - for their economies, energy security, and for alleviating climate change."



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Sarah Forbes, World Resources Institute

Countries at the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action agreed earlier this month in Geneva to a draft text for a deal to fight climate change. Considered a key development toward an agreement that may be adopted in Paris by the end of the year, the text is an updated version of a draft from a December conference

in Lima, Peru.

The US-China initiative on climate change got a major boost last November when US President Barack Obama and Chinese leader Xi Jinping unveiled an action plan on greenhouse emissions as part of an historic pact. The US agreed to reduce carbon emissions by 26-28 percent by 2025 and China committed to no growth in carbon emissions in 2030 according to Hart.

Just because of their size and economic footprint, Hart said the US and China will play pivotal roles in developing a global climate change agreement.

"The US is the biggest emitter of emissions among the developed countries and China is the biggest emitter among the developing economies," said Hart. "Both countries are critical for success but both must also act in a leadership role on this issue."

Coal is a good example of how China and the US can cooperate as both countries depend on the fuel to fulfill much of their energy needs.

Even though the US and China are making progress in using alternative fuels such as natural gas and solar and wind energy, coal still represents an important part of both nations' economies.

In 2010, a US-China coal research consortium led by West Virginia University (WVU) was unveiled. It is focused on progress in clean coal and carbon-capture technology development.

Earlier this month, the university's College of Law hosted a public educational event - China, Climate Change and the West Virginia Connection. It featured Jerry Fletcher, professor of resource economics and director of the university's US-China Energy Center and Forbes of the World Resources Institute.

The Friends of Blackwater's Allegheny Highlands Climate Impacts Initiative and the law college's Center for Energy and Sustainable Development sponsored the event.

In addition to developing power plants that run on alter-

native fuels, Forbes said developments in carbon capture and storage (CCS) - a technology that can capture up to 90 percent of the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions produced from the use of fossil fuels like coal - will be critical for both nations.

"CCS will probably wind up contributing 14 percent of the solution in a plan for cutting CO2 emissions," she said.

Fletcher said there are differences in how China and the US use coal. "The US chemical industry is mostly petroleum based while China's is mostly coal based. Still the move to reduce CO2 through increased efficiency and storage technology provides a way for both countries to work together."

But he cautioned that the process is just beginning.

"This is a first step. You have to learn how to walk before you can run. And whatever methods are employed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will add to the cost of energy. This will be a challenge that both nations will need to confront," he said.

In the news

CHINA Healthcare cures

As China moves to boost the private sector, many doctors employed by public hospitals are taking advantage of changes in the rules. > P4

Playing games

A wave of loneliness among young middle-class men gave rise to "pick-up artists" who teach lovelorn bachelors how to attract women. > P6

PEOPLE Farm to table

Farm activists say market pressure can make eating healthier and safer. > P4

BUSINESS Major hurdles

US-based companies operating in China say that air pollution and uncertainties over regulations are the toughest part of the operation, a survey says. > P12

