

**ZGBriefs**  
**February 12, 2009**  
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**FEATURED ARTICLE**

**China and Taiwan to Confer on Imperial Art Treasures Split by History** (February 11, 2009, The New York Times, by Keith Bradsher)

Divided for 60 years by war and political turbulence, the imperial art collection of China is now the focus of negotiations that could lead to at least a few of the works being exhibited together again.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/12/arts/design/12pala.html>

**GOVERNMENT / POLITICS / FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Tibet sentences 76 people over Lhasa violence** (February 11, 2009, Xinhua)

COURTS in Tibet have so far meted out sentences to 76 people involved in the March 14 riot last year in the capital city of Lhasa, a senior Tibetan official has said. Nyima Cering, vice chairman of the standing committee of the Tibet regional People's Congress, made the remarks at a press conference last night.

**More Tibet unrest cannot be ruled out: officials** (February 10, 2009, Reuters)

Fresh unrest in Tibet can not be ruled out nearly a year after riots in the capital Lhasa, because exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama is determined to foment trouble, regional officials said on Tuesday. Cao Bianjiang, deputy mayor of the Himalayan city, said he was focused on fostering growth that would ensure stability, but exiled Tibetans were scared this would make them irrelevant. March will mark the anniversary of protests against Chinese rule in Lhasa and in Tibetan communities across the plateau, and the 50th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's flight into Indian exile.

**China official: Tibetan areas closed to foreigners** (February 12, 2009, AP)

Swaths of western China that have large Tibetan populations have been declared off limits to foreign visitors, local officials confirmed Thursday, ahead of the politically sensitive 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising. An official at the tourism office of northwestern Gansu province's Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which is home to a major monastery and large Tibetan communities, said the region was again closed to foreigners and would not be open until late March. The official, who did not identify himself, as is common in China, did not say when the restrictions were put in place. In Sichuan province, many areas open two weeks ago are now closed to foreign tourists until April, according to officials at the Ganzi prefecture tourist bureau. Only three counties in that prefecture will remain open to foreigners. Qinghai province has also closed many areas to foreigners.

**China rejects human rights criticism at UN** (February 11, 2009, AFP)

China rejected proposals Wednesday to end labor camp sentences, abolish the death penalty and guarantee freedom of religion, as it concluded its first examination before the U.N. Human Rights Council. Beijing, which in the past fought successfully to avoid any criticism before the U.N.'s top human rights organ, struck down virtually every suggestion made by countries such as Britain, Mexico and Germany, in a new procedure designed to open every country to scrutiny. The recommendations dismissed by China also included ending torture, respecting ethnic minorities and allowing independent experts to investigate human rights abuses. China said it did support proposals — mostly by developing

countries — to improve social and economic rights such as creating jobs in rural areas and doing more to integrate people with disabilities.

## **HEALTH**

### **China orders recall of dodgy rabies vaccine** (February 12, 2009, Xinhua)

More than 320,000 doses of rabies vaccine found to contain a banned ingredient have been recovered after Chinese regulators ordered a recall, an official said yesterday. The drugs were recovered by Dalian Jingang-Andi Bio-products Co Ltd in northeast China's Liaoning Province, said Yan Jiangying, spokeswoman for the State Food and Drug Administration. There have been no reports of vaccine-related illnesses.

### **China investigating milk additive used by dairy** (February 11, 2009, AP)

China's quality watchdog said Wednesday it is investigating the safety of an unapproved protein additive in a premium line of milk produced by one of the country's biggest dairies. In a notice posted late Wednesday on its Web site, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said it was researching the additive called OMP, a milk protein added by the Mengniu Dairy Group Co. to its Telunsu line. It said results would be published at a later date. A Mengniu statement released Wednesday said OMP — or osteoblast milk protein — helps with the absorption of calcium and promotes bone growth. It is commonly used in other countries under the name "Milk Basic Protein" or MBP, Mengniu said.

### **China Health Ministry "puzzled" by bird flu cases** (February 10, 2009, Reuters)

China's Health Ministry is puzzled by eight human cases of bird flu in January which appeared independent of any known case in birds, a spokesman said on Tuesday. Five Chinese died from H5N1 in January in far-flung regions without any reported presence of the virus in birds on the mainland. Dead birds that washed up in Hong Kong tested positive for the H5N1 strain this month, leading experts to question whether bird flu is widely present but undetected in China. "We see the result, but not the cause. We don't know where it has come from, but people have been infected.

### **China bans organ transplant operations for foreign tourists** (February 10, 2009, Xinhua)

The Ministry of Health said today that China prohibits organ transplants for foreign visitors carrying a tourist visa and the ministry will deal harshly with domestic medical institutions involved in illegal organ transplants. China opposes organ transplant for foreign tourists in accordance with international practice, said MOH spokesman Mao Qunan at a press conference. Highlighting the lack of organ donors in the country, the official said that in China, organ transplants should be conducted for domestic patients who have an urgent need for the operation. Domestic hospitals must also prohibit their doctors from performing organ transplants while traveling overseas as a tourist, it said.

## **EDUCATION / CULTURE**

### **Education reform proposals flood in** (February 8, 2009, Xinhua)

Thousands of Chinese have written to the Ministry of Education in the past month to offer advice on education plans for the next decade. The Ministry of Education received about 1.1 million proposals in the past month, said Tian Huisheng, a ministry official in charge of processing the public's opinions. People sent e-mails, letters and left posts on the ministry's Website since the draft of the long-term plan on education reform and development was opened to solicit public opinions on January 7. The plan will be the country's first education development plan in the 21st century and will include major guidelines and policies about education before 2020.

### **Beijing moves to encourage volunteering among students** (February 8, 2009, Xinhua)

Beijing has decided to promote volunteering among the city's 1.78 million students, mulling to credit their volunteer experiences for reference in academic institutions' enrollment. The move was to help students develop awareness of volunteer work and encourage them to make devotion to society, the Beijing Youth Daily quoted local education authorities as saying on Sunday. Students could all become registered volunteers on a voluntary basis, it said, adding minors' application should be firstly approved by their guardians.

## **SOCIETY / LIFE**

### **China state TV apologizes for fireworks blaze** (February 10, 2009, Reuters)

An unapproved fireworks display by China's state broadcaster caused a blaze that swept through part of Central China Television's hypermodern complex in Beijing, a fire brigade spokesman said on Tuesday. A fireman died after inhaling toxic gases when fighting the fire at the still unopened 30-storey building, Xinhua News Agency said. Seven people were injured, including six of about 600 firefighters at the scene. CCTV apologized for the fire on its official website. "We feel very hurt that the fire caused a big loss of national wealth," it said. "We apologize to the nearby people for the traffic jams and inconvenience caused by the fire." The blaze started on Monday evening and was put out at 2 a.m. on Tuesday.

### **Twelve held after China state TV complex blaze** (February 12, 2009, Reuters)

Twelve people have been detained in connection with a huge blaze caused by unlicensed fireworks that partly destroyed Beijing's hypermodern state television and hotel complex, local media reported on Thursday. The twelve included a senior China Central Television (CCTV) official in charge of construction of the TV headquarters, the Beijing Times said. It did not say if anyone had been charged.

### **Data hide scale of China's job woe** (February 10, 2009, Financial Times)

The collapse of China's export engine appears to have hit the most vulnerable first, with the state estimating that 20m of the 130m rural migrant workers have lost their jobs and returned to home towns and villages. The implied 15.3 per cent unemployment rate among migrants is not captured in official jobless numbers, which measure only urban workers who register as unemployed. That official number rose to 8.86m people, or 4.2 per cent of the urban workforce, in December, but economists say it vastly underestimates the true scale of the problem. For one thing it does not count anyone made redundant who still receives some sort of stipend. "It is virtually impossible to get a handle on the true numbers, but we are clearly nowhere near the peak of unemployment," Stephen Green, a Shanghai-based economist with Standard Chartered bank, said. "The worst is yet to come."

### **Civil servants to be paid in coupons** (February 11, 2009, The China Daily)

Civil servants in Hangzhou are to receive part of their wages in shopping vouchers, the city's Party chief Wang Guoping said on Monday. "About 5 to 10 percent of their salaries will be paid in the form of consumption coupons," Wang was quoted as saying by the Metropolitan Express. "The Party chief and the mayor will take the lead and all civil servants will follow," he said. Wang, speaking at a conference about a 100-million-yuan (\$14.6 million) stimulus plan launched before the lunar new year. The coupons have been distributed to people to encourage spending, especially on locally made goods.

### **Valentine's Day to bring marriage boom in Beijing** (February 8, 2009, Xinhua)

Valentine's Day will bring a marriage boom to China, with many couples choosing the Western lovers' day as the day get spliced. Many registration centers in Beijing expect three times the usual number of couples getting married on that day, the Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau said on Friday.

**Mainland tourists spend \$25 mln in Taiwan during Chinese New Year holiday** (February 2, 2009, Xinhua)

About 13,400 Chinese mainland tourists flocked to Taiwan last week, spending 850 million New Taiwan dollars (25.5 million U.S. dollars) in their first Spring Festival holiday on the island. Each visitor spent a daily average of about 9,000 NTD from Jan.26, the first day of the Spring Festival or lunar New Year, to Feb. 1, said Chang Shi-Chung, of the Taiwan tourism authority, Monday. About 60 percent of mainland tourists opted for a seven-night schedule, and the arrivals peaked on Jan. 26 when more than 3,000 arrived, he said.

## **ENVIRONMENT / SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY**

**China says wheat crop at risk if no rain soon** (February 10, 2009, AFP)

China warned Tuesday of a severe impact on the nation's winter wheat crop if there was no rain within the next 15 days to relieve the worst drought in half a century. "Right now, this is the critical period for the growth of winter crops," E Jingping, a top drought relief official, told a news conference. "If in 15 days there is no precipitation, the situation in the winter wheat zone will be more severe and the next stage for drought-relief operations will be abnormally difficult." Premier Wen Jiabao said at the weekend that the drought -- which also has hit central and southwestern rice-growing provinces -- risked straining food supplies when people already faced hardships due to the economic crisis. The drought was affecting 96 percent of the winter wheat-growing region, said E, secretary general of the National Headquarters of Flood-Control and Drought-Relief.

**China to divert water from two longest rivers to ease drought** (February 8, 2009, Xinhua)

China will divert water from its two longest rivers to irrigate the drought-stricken farmland, a Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) official told media Saturday. Water in the country's longest river, the Yangtze River, will be diverted north to the northern areas of east China's Jiangsu Province as temperature rises and water demand grows, said Zhang Zhitong, deputy chief of the MWR's flood control and drought relief office. Sluices on north China's Inner Mongolian section of the Yellow River, the country's second longest river, will be opened to increase water supply for Henan and Shandong provinces downstream, Zhang was quoted by the China News Service as saying.

## **BUSINESS / ECONOMICS / TRADE**

**Foreign trade plummets 29% in January** (February 12, 2009, China Daily)

A sharp fall in imports and exports in January, which included a weeklong Spring Festival holiday, has both puzzled and alarmed economists. General Administration of Customs figures released yesterday showed exports plummeted 17.5 percent year-on-year, much sharper than the 2.8 percent fall in December. Imports fell even more dramatically, to 43.1 percent year-on-year. The combined foreign trade in January fell 29 percent year-on-year. Such a major decline in monthly foreign trade is rare in the 30 years of reform and opening up.

**Chinese inflation hits 2½ year low** (February 10, 2009, Financial Times)

Chinese inflation dropped to its lowest in 2½ years and the price of goods leaving factory gates fell 3.3 per cent in January, raising the prospect that the country will experience falling prices in coming months. Consumer price inflation fell for the ninth month in a row to 1 per cent in January from 1.2 per cent the previous month as prices for clothing, transport and housing tumbled. The drop in prices charged by manufacturers underscored the weakness of the economy.

**China becomes biggest auto market** (February 10, 2009, BBC News)

China has leapfrogged the US to become the world's largest auto market, according to monthly figures from the Chinese state media. In January 735,000 cars were sold in China said state TV, quoting the deputy director of the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, Dong Yong. Last week, preliminary estimates from US market research firm Autodata said 656,976 cars were sold in the US. Analysts say this is an anomaly as the new lunar year boosts sales in China. Meanwhile, the US traditionally sees a post-Christmas decline in sales. Analysts predict that the US will remain the world's biggest market for the full year.

**FedEx Moves Asia-Pacific Hub to Guangzhou** (February 9, 2009, China Briefing)

U.S. logistics giant Federal Express will soon move its Asia-Pacific air trans-shipment hub from the Philippines to China's Guangzhou City. The company's Philippine base is located in Subic Bay, a former United States Navy base, 100 kilometers northwest of Manila. Its last shipment of goods, headed for Taiwan, left last Friday. FedEx's new China operations will be based from the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport and will open by first half of this year to allow the company "to fully test all systems and processes, as well as work closely with the Guangzhou authorities to ensure all necessary approvals are in place," reports Xinhua.

**Mecca monorail deal marks Saudi visit by China's Hu** (February 11, 2009, AFP)

Chinese President Hu Jintao wrapped up his second day in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday with a contract to build a monorail in Islam's holiest city and with a pact on oil and petrochemicals supplies under his arm. The 1.8 billion dollar deal for China Railway Corp to build a mass transit system for Muslim pilgrims on the annual hajj pilgrimage to Mecca served to highlight China's growing role as a contractor for infrastructure in the kingdom, even as it imports huge amounts of Saudi oil to power its economy.

**LINKS TO DETAILED ARTICLES AND ANALYSIS**

**China aims for its own Silicon Valley** (February 9, 2009, The Christian Science Monitor, by Carol Huang)

Like Japan and the Asian tigers before it, China is moving to loosen the grip of high-volume, low-end manufacturing on its economy – and transform itself into a corner-office innovator that can dream up an idea and build it to exacting specifications.

<http://features.csmonitor.com/economyrebuild/2009/02/09/china-aims-for-its-own-silicon-valley/>

**Beijing sets out on chaos offensive** (February 11, 2009, Asia Times Online, by Willy Lam)

As the Chinese government fights to resuscitate the economy, it faces the even more daunting task of maintaining social stability, with issues like rising unemployment and a number of upcoming sensitive anniversaries threatening to spark violent dissent.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/KB11Ad01.html>

**A new tone as Clinton comes calling** (February 11, 2009, Asia Times Online, by Nehgingpao Kipgen)

By selecting East Asia as Hillary Clinton's first overseas trip as United States secretary of state, a significant message has been sent about where US foreign policy is headed under President Barack Obama.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\\_Asia/KB12Ae01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/KB12Ae01.html)

**Sortcuts to learning Mandarin** (February 12, 2009, Asia Times Online, by Sherman So)

As China's economic might and perceived future global influence grow, more and more people are finding the need to learn Mandarin.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/KB12Ad01.html>

**China's cast-offs** (February 9, 2009, The Guardian, by Jonathan Fenby)

The migrant workers who helped to build an economic powerhouse no longer have a role in an uncertain future.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/feb/09/china-internationaltrade>

**China's rural teachers join rumble of unrest** (February 6, 2009, International Herald Tribune, by Chris Buckley)

Teachers across rural China, many long retired or forced from classrooms, have joined a recent surge of protests, with hundreds, sometimes thousands, besieging local governments to demand better treatment and denounce official privilege.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/reuters/2009/02/06/asia/OUKWD-UK-CHINA-UNREST.php>

**Beijing party that went horribly wrong** (February 12, 2009, BBC News, by Quentin Sommerville)

Spectacular explosions over Beijing heralded the end of the lunar new year. But as the fireworks rose and fell, a new landmark building caught fire.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7884275.stm>

**Tourists replace sportsmen** (February 8, 2009, Singapore Straits Times, by Peh Shing Hwei)

Just six months after the breathtaking opening of the Beijing Olympics, the Bird's Nest stadium is looking a lot less glamorous. The paint is peeling and stains have appeared on its famous lattice design.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory\\_335704.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_335704.html)

**Photos: 8 months after the Wenquan Earthquake** (Thamos A. Hahn Docu-images)

A selection of photographs of an explorative roadtrip up from Chengdu towards Dujiangyan, Yingxiu and Wenchuan, taken on January 21, 2009.

<http://hahn.zenfolio.com/p732824044/>

## **BLOG POSTS**

**Fireworks in Beijing: Maybe Not Such A Good Idea After All...** (February 11, 2009, WSJ China Journal)

In late 2005, Beijing said it was lifting a 13-year ban on fireworks in its downtown area during the Chinese Lunar New Year. Oops.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinajournal/2009/02/11/fireworks-in-beijing-maybe-not-such-a-good-idea-after-all/>

**CCTV Fire suspiciously absent from TV news** (February 10, 2009, Shanghaiist)

It's the morning after, and people in Beijing are reporting that last night's burning building ([http://shanghaiist.com/2009/02/09/new\\_cctv\\_headquarters\\_in\\_beijing\\_up.php](http://shanghaiist.com/2009/02/09/new_cctv_headquarters_in_beijing_up.php)), the TVCC Center right across from the main oddly-angled CCTV headquarters, has been put out. By people, we mean the twitterati, because most media organizations here aren't covering it (yet) at all.

[http://shanghaiist.com/2009/02/10/cctv\\_fire\\_suspiciously\\_absent\\_from.php](http://shanghaiist.com/2009/02/10/cctv_fire_suspiciously_absent_from.php)

**Happy 牛 Year** (February 11, 2009, The China Beat)

Between January 25 and January 31, Chinese users sent a mind-boggling 18 billion text messages according to the three largest telecom companies in China.

<http://thechinabeat.blogspot.com/2009/02/happy-year.html>

**Street Talk: US Economic Recession Hit Chinese Village** (January 28, 2009, China in Transition)

One thing that truly surprised me during my recent trip back to China was the big impact of the ongoing financial crisis, originated in the US and soon spread globally, on Chinese people's life.

<http://josieliu.blogspot.com/2009/01/street-talk-american-economy-recession.html>

**Waiting for rock bottom** (February 8, 2009, China Business Blog)

To say that "price is King" in China is like saying its crowded here. In China, price is King ... it is also Queen, Jack and Ace.

<http://www.technomicasia.com/blog/2009/02/08/waiting-for-rock-bottom/>

**Sanlu's Lessons For Foreign Managers In China....Because Jail Is Probably Not Where You Want To Be.**

(February 8, 2009, China Law Blog)

The China Economic Review recently published this column by CLB's own Steve Dickinson, entitled, "Foreign Managers Are Not Above the Law."

([http://www.chinaeconomicreview.com/cer/2009\\_02/Know\\_your\\_risk.html](http://www.chinaeconomicreview.com/cer/2009_02/Know_your_risk.html))

[http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/02/sanlus\\_lessons\\_for\\_foreign\\_man.html](http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/02/sanlus_lessons_for_foreign_man.html)

**China Law for foreigners. slip sliding away.** (February 6, 2009, China Law Blog)

In the last three months or so, the law for foreigners has definitely shifted a bit in China. It has not changed on the books, but it has changed out in the field and foreigners doing business in China and those considering doing business in China need to be aware of these changes and how they might impact their business.

[http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/02/china\\_is\\_again\\_open\\_for\\_busine.html](http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/02/china_is_again_open_for_busine.html)

**Netizens ridicule CCTV** (February 12, 2009, China Digital Times)

<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2009/02/netizens-ridicule-cctv/>

## LINKS IN CHINESE

**赵晓：中华文明会吸收基督教变成未来文明主体** (February 10, 2009, Gospel Times)

[http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009\\_02\\_10/4179.htm](http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009_02_10/4179.htm)

**央视新址火灾相关责任人被调查** (February 10, 2009, Caijing)

<http://www.caijing.com.cn/2009-02-10/110054742.html>

**宗教良心自由与服役正义** (February 12, 2009, Pacific Solutions)

<http://www.pacilution.com/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=1675>

**宗教事务管理与公共利益保护** (February 12, 2009, Pacific Solutions)

<http://www.pacilution.com/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=1655>

## LINKS FOR RESEARCHERS

**Chinese Biblical Studies: Issues in understanding and interpretation** (February 5, 2009, Global China Center, by Wright Doyle)

A colloquium on Chinese biblical studies sponsored by the Center for the Study of Christianity in China, King's College, London, was held January 17th-21st. Supported in part by a grant from the Bible Society,

and convened by The Very Reverend Dr. Christopher Hancock, this symposium showcased some of the fine scholarship being done by Chinese around the world.

<http://www.globalchinacenter.org/analysis/christianity-in-china/chinese-biblical-studies-issues-in-understanding-and-interpretation.php>

**Backgrounder: China's Military Power** (February 5, 2009, The New York Times, by Jayshree Bajoria)  
Since the 1990s, China has dramatically improved its military capabilities on land and sea, in the air, and in space.

[http://www.nytimes.com/cfr/world/slot3\\_20090204.html](http://www.nytimes.com/cfr/world/slot3_20090204.html)

**The China Elections & Governance** (CEG), China Program, The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA, US and Institute of International Comparative Political Economy, Renmin University, China.

<http://www.chinaelections.org/>

## **RESOURCES**

**Historical Chinese image collections** (Mutant Palm)

<http://www.mutantpalm.org/historical-chinese-image-collections>

**On-line Chinese Tools**

<http://www.mandarintools.com/>

Contributions to support the production of ZGBriefs are always welcome and can now be made at our secure online giving page for ZGBriefs. Thank you.

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/ChinaSource/ZGBriefsDonation.html>