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## **FEATURED ARTICLE**

### **Will China's New Food-Safety Laws Work?** (March 3, 2009, Time, by Austin Ramzy)

After a series of safety scandals that killed Chinese citizens and degraded the international reputation of the country's exports, Beijing has approved a broad series of tougher food-safety laws. But given the difficulty in implementing laws in China, it's unclear whether the legislation will make China's food safer to eat.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1882711,00.html>

## **GOVERNMENT / POLITICS / FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **China says ready to talk to Taiwan, end hostility** (March 5, 2009, AP)

China's Premier Wen Jiabao said Thursday that Beijing is ready to hold talks with Taiwan on political and military issues in the pursuit of ending hostility between the longtime rivals. In a report to the annual legislative session's opening ceremony, Wen cheered a significant improvement in ties and a major reduction in tensions over the past year between Beijing and the self-governing island it claims as Chinese territory. Wen gave no additional details on the content of a peace agreement or what the talks on political and military issues would include. However, the tone of his remarks were far more conciliatory than the typically hawkish references to Taiwan contained in previous addresses to the congress. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council had no immediate comment on Wen's remarks.

### **China to boost military spending** (March 4, 2009, BBC News)

China says it will increase military spending by a "modest" 14.9% this year to 480.6bn yuan (\$70.2bn; £50bn). The money will pay for better salaries, modernisation, and "capacity building programmes" including counter-terrorism and disaster relief, a spokesman said. China's military is for self-protection and does not pose a threat to any country, said official Li Zhaoxing. Analysts say defence spending is higher than the official figure, but Beijing says there are no hidden outlays. The new military budget was released on the eve of the annual session of the National People's Congress, China's parliament.

### **West 'uses Tibet to attack China'** (March 2, 2009, BBC News)

China has published a paper praising its rule in Tibet and accusing the West of trying to inflame tensions there. China had developed Tibet's economy and improved both the human rights and living conditions of its residents, the white paper said. Reports of a "Tibet issue" were an attempt by "western anti-China forces" to demonise China, it said. The paper comes ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's exile and amid reports of regional unrest.

### **Chinese forces surround Tibetan monastery after protest: activists** (March 2, 2009, AFP)

Security forces have surrounded a Tibetan monastery in a tense region of southwest China after monks held a rally a week before the 50th anniversary of a failed uprising, activist groups said Monday. They said the monks in Sichuan province, bordering Tibet, demonstrated close to where another monk set himself on fire last week to protest against China's 58-year rule of the Himalayan region. Scores of monks

at Aba prefecture's Sey monastery rallied after officials outlawed prayers during a traditional Buddhist festival, the US-based International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) said, citing sources there.

**Tibet instability a rumor, communist governor says** (March 5, 2009, AP)

Tibet's governor insisted Thursday that his region is stable and will remain so ahead of a sensitive anniversary marking communist rule that last year sparked anti-government protests and riots. Qiangba Puncog, the regional governor, was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency that reports of recent instability in the Himalayan region were "pure rumor." He did not specify the reports he was referring to.

**China, US agree to resume key military exchanges** (February 28, 2009, AFP)

China and the United States agreed to resume high-level military exchanges during talks here that a senior US defence official described Saturday as his best ever. The two-day defence contacts that ended Saturday were the first between the world powers in five months after China suspended military exchanges over a proposed US arms package to Taiwan-- a sensitive issue in Sino-US relations. "We agreed we are going to be having high-level exchanges very soon," US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence David Sedney told reporters. The head of China's delegation, Qian Lihua, had warned on Friday that the resumption of talks was no guarantee that broader military exchanges would go ahead.

## **HEALTH**

**China to doctors: Heal thyself, quit smoking** (March 3, 2009, AP)

China's health minister has urged doctors and medical workers to quit smoking to set an example to others as China struggles to stamp out the ingrained habit, the China Daily newspaper said Tuesday. The state-owned newspaper said 56.8 percent of doctors smoke, the highest rate in the world, citing the China Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA). The association has launched a campaign to make medical schools, hospitals and associations smoke-free by the end of this year, the paper said. The campaign will be supported by 10 health associations and 10 universities.

## **EDUCATION / CULTURE**

**Chinese man bids but won't pay for looted bronzes** (March 2, 2009, AP)

A Chinese art collector revealed himself Monday as the man behind the winning bids for two imperial bronzes auctioned at Christie's over Beijing's objections, then announced he had no intention of paying the \$36 million. The bogus bids were the latest attempt by both the Chinese government and private citizens to block the sale of the pieces, which disappeared when French and British forces sacked and burned the imperial Summer Palace outside Beijing in 1860 at the end of the second Opium War. Chinese view the devastation of the palace as a national humiliation. Auction house owner Cai Mingchao said he put in telephone bids for the bronze rat and rabbit heads — part of a collection owned by the late French designer Yves Saint Laurent — during last week's auction in Paris.

**Beijing Palace Museum curator visits Taiwan** (March 1, 2009, AP)

The curator of the Beijing Palace Museum began a high-profile visit Sunday to arrange an exhibition of Chinese relics in Taiwan, the rivals' first joint cultural program for six decades. The visits and exhibition plans are another sign of improving relations between China and Taiwan under the self-ruled island's new president. Beijing museum curator Zheng Xinmiao told reporters he would discuss the loan of 29 Qing Dynasty relics to Taiwan's National Palace Museum for an exhibition this fall during his four-day visit. The Chinese museum agreed to the exhibit and other cooperation programs last month when the head of Taiwan's National Palace Museum visited Beijing.

### **High school students suspended for betting on NBA games** (February 27, 2009, Xinhua)

Thirty high school students in south China's Guangdong Province have been suspended after they were suspected of gambling on NBA games, local education authorities said Thursday. The 10th and 11th grade students at Donghua Senior High School in Dongguan City, were suspected of betting on NBA games, said Wang Xuhui, deputy head of the municipal education bureau, at a press conference. The school ordered them to stay at home indefinitely on Monday and Tuesday.

## **SOCIETY / LIFE**

### **Collapsed China quake school to be tourist site: report** (March 4, 2009, AFP)

Some of the ruins left by last year's massive earthquake in southwest China, including a collapsed school, will open to tourists later this month, state media reported Wednesday. Tour groups will be able to go boating on a "quake lake" and visit a museum featuring an "earthquake simulation," the China Daily reported, citing officials in Beichuan county, where 80 percent of the buildings were levelled. Local government spokesman Chen Wen said the one-day tour will include a visit to Beichuan High School, where students were buried in the rubble of collapsed buildings, the report said. Chen said local officials created the tour in response to demand from people wanting to see tragic sites linked to the 8.0 magnitude quake that struck the province on May 12, the report said.

### **Report: Zhang plans film to mark China anniversary** (March 4, 2009, AP)

"Raise the Red Lantern" director Zhang Yimou plans to make a movie to mark the 60th anniversary of communist China, cementing his shift from a dissident to a government-favored artist. Zhang is still working on the script for the film, China Central Television reported Wednesday. Zhang designed the opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics in August, and was earlier chosen by the government as the director of a gala celebrating the People's Republic of China's 60th anniversary on Oct. 1.

### **Chinese queue for lucky haircuts** (February 26, 2009, Xinhua)

Barber shops across China saw one of their busiest days of the year Thursday, the Dragon-Head-Raising Festival according to the lunar calendar, when Chinese believe a haircut will bring good luck. At 6 p.m., in Silian Salon, a Beijing barbershop founded half a century ago, more than 50 people were waiting in chairs, holding numbered cards to show their place in the queue. In several provinces, the tradition holds that the second day of the second month of the lunar calendar is Dragon Head Raising Festival, on which a dragon-shaped constellation starts rising from the horizon. It signals the start of ample rain for spring crops and is considered an auspicious day to have a haircut. Haircuts are also discouraged in the first lunar month because they might bring bad luck to one's uncles.

## **ENVIRONMENT / SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY**

### **China's lunar probe ends mission** (March 1, 2009, Reuters)

China's lunar probe has ended its 16-month life with a planned crash into the moon, the official Xinhua news agency said on Sunday. Named for a moon goddess, the Chang'e-1 rammed into the lunar surface in the mid-afternoon Beijing time, after orbiting the moon thousands of times to map its surface. The probe was the first step in plans to land a vehicle on the moon in 2012. Before the moon-lander, China will send Chang'e-2 satellite to fulfill another mission.

## **BUSINESS / ECONOMICS / TRADE**

### **Wen declares China can ride out economic storm** (March 5, 2009, AFP)

Premier Wen Jiabao said Thursday that China was facing unprecedented challenges from the global crisis but he was confident the country would still achieve growth of about eight percent this year. In his annual "state of the nation" address to open parliament, Wen gave the most detailed blueprint yet of a four-trillion-yuan (585-billion-dollar) stimulus plan aimed at steering China through the downturn. The premier acknowledged the Chinese economy, the third biggest in the world, was hurting and the climate was not expected to get better soon in the face of a global recession that has weakened demand for Chinese goods. But Wen said the economy was still expected to grow by about 8.0 percent this year -- a rate officials have stressed is needed to prevent social unrest triggered by widescale unemployment. China's economic growth dipped to 6.8 percent in the final quarter of last year, worrying figures for a government long used to double-digit expansions and marking a dramatic slowdown from 13.0 percent growth in 2007.

#### **Shares up on China stimulus hopes** (March 5, 2009, BBC News)

Share prices around the world have jumped amid hopes the Chinese government will announce an expansion to its economic stimulus plan. It is expected that Beijing will increase spending in infrastructure, manufacturing and other sectors. A rise in China's manufacturing index also helped stock market rallies. The key measure of Chinese manufacturing rose in February for the third month in a row. "What is good for China is good for the world," said Paul Mendelsohn, chief investment strategist at Windham Financial Services. China is one of the biggest economies and the second biggest oil consumer.

### **LINKS TO DETAILED ARTICLES AND ANALYSIS**

#### **Writers' festival offers insights into modern China** (March 5, 2009, AFP, by Karl Malakunas)

At first glance, a literary festival gathering dozens of writers from around the world may seem out of place in China, where censorship of the local media remains heavy. But The Bookworm International Literary Festival, now in its fourth year, has proved to be a huge success, providing a platform for a relatively free flow of ideas and offering another example of the complexities of modern China.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090305/lf\\_afp/lifestylechinabooksfestival\\_20090305075237](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090305/lf_afp/lifestylechinabooksfestival_20090305075237)

#### **Beijing vendors fight counterfeiting crackdown** (March 2, 2009, International Herald Tribune, by Sharon Lafraniere)

Any tourist who has stepped foot in this city's famous Silk Street Market can testify that it is home to some of the wildest, most tenacious vendors who ever tried to palm off a fake handbag on a naïve foreigner.

<http://www.ihrt.com/articles/2009/03/02/asia/02piracy.php>

#### **Chinese delegate has 'no power'** (March 4, 2009, BBC News, by Michael Bristow)

Hu Xiaoyan is an unassuming migrant worker and a mother of twin girls - she is also a celebrity. Last year the 35-year-old was the first ever migrant worker to become a member of the country's national parliament.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7922720.stm>

#### **Farmers voice little hope for China's rural reforms** (March 3, 2009, AFP, by Robert J. Saiget)

Millions of Chinese became urban dwellers overnight after local governments began expanding cities and gobbling up vast tracts of farmland to make way for the nation's fast-paced development.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090304/wl\\_asia\\_afp/chinacongressnpefarm](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090304/wl_asia_afp/chinacongressnpefarm)

#### **A Home on the Internet Shelters Beijing's Homeless** (March 3, 2009, The New York Times, by Jonathan Ansfield)

South of Tiananmen Square, mazelike neighborhoods are being bulldozed and grand shopping promenades erected, but homeless people keep resurfacing.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/04/world/asia/04beijing.html>

**China goes on a smart shopping spree** (March 2, 2009, Time, by Vivienne Walt)

The world might be sinking into its worst recession in generations, but China is on a wild shopping spree. Sitting some \$2 trillion of cash reserves, Beijing is taking advantage

(<http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1879866,00.html>) of the woes of others to cement its grip on new sources of commodities ranging from olive oil to crude oil —often at fire-sale prices.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1882594,00.html>

**A Textile Capital of China Is Hobbled by a Downturn Gone Global** (February 27, 2009, The New York Times, by David Barboza)

Qian Jin, an industry expert, says Chinese textile companies are suddenly in a “struggle for survival.” A warning from Beijing last December was dire, too: As many as two-thirds of the country’s textile and apparel companies could go broke.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/28/business/worldbusiness/28textile.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/28/business/worldbusiness/28textile.html?_r=1)

**Video: Explore: China** (LinkTV)

With a population of 1.4 billion, the People’s Republic of China is vitally important to the planet. China’s rapid growth impacts the environment locally and globally. In a world affected by globalization, China embodies the phenomenon in both positive and negative ways. China’s modern society provides a better life for many but also brings with it a loss of cultural tradition and natural resources.

[http://www.linktv.org/programs/explore\\_china](http://www.linktv.org/programs/explore_china)

**Documentary: Seven Wonders of China** (Discovery, via China Digital Times)

Discovery’s documentary “7 Wonders of China” introduces Terracotta Army

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terracotta\\_Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terracotta_Army)), Hanging Temple

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanging\\_Temple](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanging_Temple)), the Great Wall ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_wall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_wall)),

Shi Bao Zhai Temple (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shibaozhai>), Mount Wudang

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Wudang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Wudang)), Leshan Buddha

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leshan\\_Buddha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leshan_Buddha)) and the Forbidden City(

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbidden\\_City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbidden_City)), via

Youtube(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69pMsNaLSfk>) :

<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2009/02/documentary-discovery-7-wonders-of-china/>

(Note: CDT is blocked in China. YouTube’s accessibility in China this week seems to be intermittent.)

## **BLOG POSTS**

**Ten Reasons We Are Watching the National People's Congress** (March 1, 2009, Silicon Hutong)

Now that we are into the third month of the year, the time has come for the annual pageantry of pomp, politics, and propaganda colloquially known as “*liang hui*,” the twin meetings of China’s legislature, the National People’s Congress(NPC), and its advisory auxiliary, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)... Here is what we will be listening for in the Hutong:

[http://siliconhutong.typepad.com/silicon\\_hutong/2009/03/ten-reasons-we-are-watching-the-national-peoples-congress.html](http://siliconhutong.typepad.com/silicon_hutong/2009/03/ten-reasons-we-are-watching-the-national-peoples-congress.html)

**The Plight of China’s Xiaojies** (March 4, 2009, China Crossroads)

We begin our discussion with the plight of China’s xiaojies (sex workers) with the translation of Professor Zhao Jun’s Recent Newsweek article that researches the challenging lives of these women.

<http://china-crossroads.com/2009/03/04/the-plight-of-chinas-xiaojies/>

**Lei Feng heritage for the whole world** (March 5, 2009, Danwei)

March 5 is Lei Feng Day, a day set aside to celebrate the life of the PLA soldier who became a model for selflessness and obedience after his untimely death in 1962.

[http://www.danwei.org/people/lei\\_feng\\_2009.php](http://www.danwei.org/people/lei_feng_2009.php)

**China's Political Meetings Inspire a Wave of Novel Proposals** (March 4, 2009, WSJ's China Journal)

Big issues tend to dominate the yearly "two meetings" of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinajournal/2009/03/04/chinas-political-meetings-inspire-a-wave-of-novel-proposals/>

**China's Luxury Mall Calamity** (March 4, 2009, Peking Duck)

More than two and a half years ago I wrote about the inevitable collapse of China's luxury malls....

Today I visited Beijing's most stunningly dysfunctional, catastrophic mall, called The Place, and all I could think about was what I wrote back in 2006. Made to look kind of like Versailles on the outside, The Place is an irrational maze of stores and eateries that seems to have been designed to turn off and turn away customers.

<http://www.pekingduck.org/2009/03/chinas-luxury-mall-calamity/>

**Found in Translation** (March 2, 2009, Letter from China)

For an extraordinary measure of the power of the Chinese Internet, take a look at this grassroots Chinese edition of *The Economist* magazine

(<http://www.ecocn.org/bbs/viewthread.php?tid=17303&extra=page%3D1>), translated cover-to-cover by volunteers around China.

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/evanosnos/>

**The Coming China Meltdown** (March 1, 2009, Newsweek's China Calling)

If China continues to force excess capacity onto a struggling world, it could result in a trade war.

<http://blog.newsweek.com/blogs/chinacalling/archive/2009/03/01/the-coming-china-meltdown.aspx>

**How news breaks in China** (February 26, 2009, BBC's James Reynold's China)

A bit more information on Wednesday's report of three people setting themselves on fire in downtown Beijing. I want to take you through the early stages of this story - so as to give you an idea of how a breaking story unfolds in China ...

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/jamesreynolds/2009/02/how\\_news\\_breaks\\_in\\_china.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/jamesreynolds/2009/02/how_news_breaks_in_china.html)

**China's complicated internet culture** (March 3, 2009, My Heart's in Accra)

The Chinese internet is lots more complicated than you think. That's the core message of Rebecca MacKinnon's talk at the Berkman Center on the Chinese internet, deliberative government and internet filtering. Most of the models we have for understanding the Chinese internet are wrong, or at the very least, deceptive.

<http://www.ethanzuckerman.com/blog/2009/03/03/chinas-complicated-internet-culture/>

**Caijing investigates shady dealings behind CCTV fire** (March 5, 2009, Shanghaiist)

Caijing (<http://english.caijing.com.cn/2009-03-03/110111281.html>) has a spectacular article looking at some of the troubles still shrouding the CCTV fire from last month, and they don't all have to do with the destroyed building. The blaze that gutted the TVCC building on February 9 may have also uncovered questionable financial deals made by high-level CCTV executives.

[http://shanghaiist.com/2009/03/05/caijing\\_investigates\\_shady\\_dealings.php](http://shanghaiist.com/2009/03/05/caijing_investigates_shady_dealings.php)

## **LINKS IN CHINESE**

**大学毕业前必看 9 本书 《圣经》居首位** (February 27, 2009, Gospel Times)

[http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009\\_02\\_27/4328.htm](http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009_02_27/4328.htm)

**金融危机下的 NGO 生存之道** (March 4, 2009, Gospel Times)

[http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009\\_03\\_04/4364.htm](http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009_03_04/4364.htm)

**宗教信仰引发网络热议 多数人表示愿意接纳** (March 5, 2009, Gospel Times)

[http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009\\_03\\_05/4381.htm](http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009_03_05/4381.htm)

**调查显示 80 后大学生婚恋观仍很传统** (February 20, 2009, Gospel Times)

[http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009\\_02\\_20/4273.htm](http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009_02_20/4273.htm)

**牧师为什么也会得绝症?** (March 3, 2009, Gospel Times)

[http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009\\_03\\_03/4353.htm](http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009_03_03/4353.htm)

## **LINKS FOR RESEARCHERS**

**Tax Regulations for Non-Resident Enterprises** (March 3, 2009, China Briefing)

The State Administration of Taxation (SAT) has issued the tax regulations for non-resident enterprises that do business and have establishments or places of business in China.

<http://www.china-briefing.com/news/2009/03/03/tax-regulations-for-non-resident-enterprises.html>

**Highlights of Premier Wen's Government Work Report** (March 5, 2009, Xinhua)

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/05/content\\_10945972.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-03/05/content_10945972.htm)

**White Paper: Fifty Years of Democratic Reform in Tibet**

[http://www.china.org.cn/government/news/2009-03/02/content\\_17359029.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/government/news/2009-03/02/content_17359029.htm)

## **RESOURCES**

**Shao Center Chinese Overseas Resources**, Shao Overseas Chinese Center, Ohio University Libraries  
Athens, OH, US

[http://www.library.ohiou.edu/subjects/shao/ch\\_databases\\_popdis.html](http://www.library.ohiou.edu/subjects/shao/ch_databases_popdis.html)

**Middle Kingdom Life: Foreign Teachers Guide to Living and Teaching in China**

<http://middlekingdomlife.com/guide/>