



THE MAKING OF A MAN

PHOTO BY ZHANG YUN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

A man paints a red dot between the eyebrows of 12-year-old Guo Dianyu during a traditional ceremony in Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi province, on Monday. According to the traditions of the Han people, the ceremony symbolizes the boy leaving childhood and entering adolescence.

New remote-sensing satellite on the job

By XIN DINGDING
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China's first high-resolution, remote-sensing satellite for civilian use, Ziyuan III, was put into service on Monday, marking a breakthrough in the country's drive to map the Earth from outer space.

Launched on Jan 9, the satellite was delivered to its primary subscriber, the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, on Monday.

"Ziyuan" is Chinese for "resources".

"The satellite shows that China's remote-sensing satellite technology has reached advanced levels," said Hu Yafeng, deputy head of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

Unlike the Ziyuan I and II satellites, which produce only two-dimensional images, the new satellite can produce three-dimensional imagery thanks to three cameras attached to it at different angles, according to Cao Hailing, the satellite's designer with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

The images' resolution is 2.1 meters, better than the previous resolution of 3 meters, she said.

The orbiter also has a mul-

tispectral camera that helps look for mineral resources, which can produce imagery with a resolution of 6 meters, she said.

The satellite can transmit data at a speed four to five times of previous satellites. And for the first time, a low-Earth-orbit remote-sensing satellite's lifespan is now five years, up from three years, according to a news release provided by the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

Officials said this satellite will eliminate the country's surveying and mapping industries' dependence on foreign satellites for high-resolution images.

A remote-sensing industry insider said, on condition of anonymity, that the country bought a lot of high-resolution images from abroad for land surveying, railway and road design and other purposes.

For example, land surveying needs remote-sensing imagery to find out whether there are illegal buildings on a certain lot of land.

"Illegal buildings may cover an area of only several hundreds square meters, and satellite images without a high resolution cannot find them," he said.

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sensing satellites can also produce images with a resolution of 3 meters, but the images' other technical standards, such as the image sharpness, cannot compete with some foreign commercial satellites," he said.

Experts said the new satellite can compete with its foreign counterparts, which currently dominate the country's high-resolution remote-sensing and mapping market.

"If domestic satellites can produce visual data of the same quality as their foreign counterparts, we will surely use the cheaper domestic products," he said.

Officials also said the satellite will enable China to produce full-coverage, high-resolution imagery of the coun-

try's coastlines and islands, and monitor and update geographic data there.

During its trial operation, the Ziyuan III satellite collected visual data of 450,000 square kilometers in the South China Sea, including Huangyan Island, over which the Philippines also claims sovereignty, said Feng Xianguang, director of Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center under the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation.

The satellite will also aid the country's natural-disaster prevention, agriculture development, water-resource management and urban planning, the administration said.

In the coming years, at least two more high-resolution remote-sensing satellites will be launched, said Li Pengde, deputy head of the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation.

They will form a satellite constellation that collects real-time data of any point on Earth, Li said.

Earlier this year, the administration announced that a national geographical conditions monitoring database will be built by the end of 2015 to use remote-sensing satellite mapping and other technology.

Railways video triggers corruption investigation

By TAN ZONGYANG
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A promotional video for the Ministry of Railways that cost 18.5 million yuan (\$2.9 million) to make has triggered a corruption investigation into a married couple who are ministry officials.

At least 7 million yuan that was invested in producing the video was alleged to have been used as illegal kickbacks, the Beijing-based newspaper Economic Information reported on Monday, citing sources from Beijing Xinshike Film and Culture Development Company — the company that produced the video.

Last month, the National Audit Office discovered that the ministry had spent 18.5 million yuan on the 5-minute video *Chinese Railways* without going through a public bidding process as required.

"The promotional video has failed to produce the desired effect ... and we urge the ministry to further probe into the problem," the office said in an annual audit report.

The video was made in 2009 and 2010 to highlight the development of China's railway system, according to the report.

It was played at the 7th World Congress on High-Speed Rail in Beijing in 2010.

Zhang Yimou, a famous Chinese filmmaker and director of the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening and closing ceremonies, faced public scrutiny after he was hired by the company to direct the video.

In an interview with zhongguowangshi.com, a news website of Xinhua News Agency, Zhang said he was hired by the company to give advice on artistic style for the video. In return, he accepted 2.5 million yuan in after-tax income as remuneration.



A screen shot of *Chinese Railways*, a promotional video made by the Ministry of Railways.

Although the video had a credit stating "Director: Zhang Yimou", Zhang said according to the contract he signed, his name should not have been listed on the video as director.

As for the comments from netizens that it was a boring and mediocre video, Zhang said he agreed with their criticisms. The authority wanted to highlight the achievements of the railway system in the video mostly through voice-overs, instead of images and stories, Zhang said. Zhang said he later learned through online reports that the video cost 18.5 million to produce and that there was corruption involved.

"I was very surprised. I did not know about it. And I was not in control of this," he said. "But I think I should reflect on it. When facing similar situations in future, I will do more research to gain a clearer idea. I will shoulder more social responsibilities."

Zhang vowed to cooperate with authorities to dispose of the earnings.

Authorities working on the case launched an investigation early this month into Chen Yihan, deputy secretary-general of the federation of literary and art circles of the ministry, who was the former head of the ministry's publicity department.

An insider said inspectors found more than 10 million yuan in cash and at least nine property

ownership certificates in Chen's home, Caixin.com reported.

But because authorities thought that Chen, a low-ranking official, could not have obtained such a large amount of money and property, authorities began investigating her husband, Liu Ruiyang, deputy director of the ministry's vehicle department.

Investigators allegedly found bank deposit books and prepaid shopping cards in Liu's office.

An investigation into the couple is ongoing.

Calls to the railway ministry's publicity department during office hours went unanswered on Monday.

"The short promotional video is by no means worthy of that much investment, which can almost produce an exquisite movie," said Ying Xiaoqiang, creative director of an advertising company in Hangzhou.

Zhu Lijia, a professor of public policy at Beijing's Chinese Academy of Governance, said the case once again proves that a loophole exists in the government's budget restraint system.

According to a notice from General Office of the State Council in 2010, government organizations must adopt the public tender method to purchase goods or services valued at more than 1.2 million yuan.

Xin Dingding contributed to this story.

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CPC local committees reshuffle

By XINHUA

Thirty-one provincial committees of the Communist Party of China reshuffled their respective leaderships through internal elections from the fourth quarter of 2011 to early July, the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee said Monday.

The Party committees of 374 prefectures and cities, 2,789 counties and urban districts, and 33,368 townships across the Chinese mainland had elected their new leading officials from December 2010 to April this year.

The department described the local Party-committee leadership reshuffle as a success, saying the process had been running in an "orderly,

sound and steady manner".

"The leadership change in local Party committees occurred in the country's crucial period of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects, deepening reform and opening up and speeding up the transformation of economic development. It was a significant event in the Party's political life," a department statement said.

Local Party committees, discipline inspection organs and organization departments promoted democracy, pushed forward reform and strictly enforced discipline amid elections, so as to ensure a successful leadership reshuffle, according to the statement.

According to the organiza-

tional rules of the CPC, standing committee members, who constitute the core of leadership in local Party committees, are elected by delegates at a regional Party congress. Those from the CPC central committee are elected at a national congress.

At the provincial level, 404 standing committee members have been elected nationwide. They are on average 54 years old, and 105 of them are younger than 50, the statement said.

Among them, 37 are female and 50 are from ethnic groups. About 98 percent completed college studies, and 72 percent had either a master's degree or a doctorate.

Also, 63 percent of standing committee members of pro-

vincial Party committees had the experience of working as Party or government heads of lower-level cities or counties.

A large number of the newly elected officials are familiar with Party affairs and government work and, in terms of age, experience, skills and personalities, they have contributed to a balanced and effective provincial leadership, the statement said.

In addition, 4,384 standing-committee members were elected in Party committees of prefectures or the same-level cities, and 30,028 were elected at the county or urban district level, according to the statement. More than 90 percent of them had received a college or post-graduate education.