



INSPIRING THE DREAMS OF OUR FUTURE

briefly

CITIC backs village project in Myanmar

The Circulation Village Fund Project, backed by CITIC Group of China, Thailand's CP Group and the Myanmar Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, was launched recently in Myanmar. The program will cover 100 villages and provide agriculture development funds for local farmers as well as various training programs for villagers.

Gates backs charity education in China

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and Wang Zhenyao, dean of the China Philanthropy Research Institute, recently agreed to raise 100 million yuan (\$16.1 million) annually to promote charity education in China. The investment aims to educate the newly wealthy, workers in the public welfare industry and social organizations, potential donors and trainers for charity education.

Diageo seeks to educate women

Alcoholic beverages company Diageo Plc announced the launch of the Women Micro-finance Program on Monday. The program aims to cooperate with PlaNet Finance, a microfinance frontrunner worldwide, to provide necessary financial training to women in Ningxia Hui autonomous region. A total of 3,000 women and 9,000 family members are expected to benefit in the first year.

CIRC releases industry paper

The China Insurance Regulatory Commission has released the first white paper on the Chinese insurance industry's social responsibility. The white paper shows China's insurance industry's positive role in building the social security system, improving social governance and compensatory mechanisms, as well as contributing to national economic transformation.

Third sustainability report released

The L'Oreal China Sustainability Country Report 2013, the third such report by the company, was released last month. The report shows L'Oreal's efforts in promoting sustainable innovation and cleaner production, generalizing a sustainable lifestyle to the public and helping interested parties better understand its idea of sustainable development.

Kitchen project benefits poor areas

The Joyoung Hope Kitchen program set up 442 kitchens in schools of poor areas in 19 provinces and autonomous regions by the end of last month. The kitchens will benefit over 210,000 students, according to Joyoung Co Ltd, a Chinese kitchen appliance supplier. Joyoung will donate 50 million yuan (\$8.05 million) to build 1,000 school kitchens within 10 years in poverty-stricken rural areas.

Jotun assists high school students

Jotun Galsang Flowers program, initiated by Jotun Group, a supplier of paints and powder coatings, has raised more than 700,000 yuan (\$112,783) to enable 50 students in Tongren, Qinghai province, to complete their junior high school studies. Jotun partnered with the Gesanghua Charity Society, a local non-governmental organization, to launch the program in 2011.

# Environment ‘priority’ for nation

## Asian Development Bank: China can help drive economic growth across region

By LAN LAN and YANG JUN in Guiyang

China remains a major driver for economic growth in Asia, but ecological and environmental issues still top the nation's major challenges, said Hamid Sharif, the Asian Development Bank's country director for China.

ECONOMY

The pace of the growth moderation in China conforms to the bank's expectations. China will remain a driver for the region's growth despite the slight drop in the first quarter, Sharif said in an interview with China

Daily in Guiyang, Guizhou.

The bank maintains its forecast for China's economic growth at 7.5 percent for this year and 7.4 percent for 2015, said a report released by the bank on Friday.

"In the long run, China will grow more slowly, but in comparison with the performance of some developed countries, it's still doing well. As the economy gets bigger, the base is getting bigger, too, and high-speed growth will be more difficult," he said.

Trying to achieve a balance between economic growth and ecological and environmental problems remains the biggest challenge facing China, said Sharif.

Although the Chinese public is increasingly concerned about environmental issues such as air and water quality, it will take time for local officials to change the way they operate.

Because officials have been evaluated by GDP growth for many years, a new evaluation system that puts greater emphasis on the environment will take years for local officials to adapt to, he said.

"It takes time, but the good thing is that the message has gone down to all levels," he said.

The ADB is working with local governments on various projects including clean coal technology, carbon capture, renewable energy and waste energy projects.

In 2013, the ADB's lending assistance to China totaled \$1.54 billion, comprising 12 projects across four

sectors: agriculture and natural resources, energy, transportation, and the urban and social sectors.

"Our total funding to China is relatively small. We want to work with the Chinese government in addressing environmental issues and poverty reduction, particular, in central and western China, so our projects are those that are demonstrative and innovative," Sharif said.

The bank is working with the governments in different provinces to address the need for technical education, among both the urban and rural populations, he said.

The ADB is also exploring innovative financing mechanisms to fund environmentally friendly projects in China.

The bank signed a memorandum of understanding earlier this month to support watershed

financing in Guizhou province.

The ADB and the provincial government are working on a public-private funding mechanism for protecting the Chishui watershed, said Sharif. It is the first public-private-partnership fund for watershed protection in China.

A PPP is a long-term, contractual partnership between public and private-sector agencies to provide infrastructure and other services.

Total PPP funding for protecting the Chishui watershed is expected to reach 5 billion yuan, and if the model works well, it can be copied elsewhere in China, he said.

Li Jun contributed to this story.

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PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

(Left) Children born with clefts are playing games at a summer camp organized by Smile Angel Foundation in Beijing. (Right) Parents make scarves as gifts for their children who were born with a cleft to try to help boost their confidence.

# Bringing back a smile to their faces

By CHINA DAILY

Tang Shuxi, an 8-year-old boy who was born with severe cleft lips and palate, sprinted and became the first who reached the destination when playing a game with other children at a summer camp in Beijing.

SOCIETY

He is one of the 20 children aged between 7 and 10 who underwent corrective surgery for their cleft. Currently, they are attending a one-week event organized by the Smile Angel Foundation, a charity that was initiated to help Chinese children born with the condition.

The foundation was established by Chinese actor Li Yapeng and singer Faye Wong in 2006 when the couple's daughter was born with a cleft palate.

The condition will result in mal-

nutrition, unclear enunciation and some nasal deformity. But surgery is only the first step, and mental issues of children born with cleft disorders need more attention.

"They still have clearly noticeable post-operative scars, and other mental issues such as being shy and refusing to talk to others," said Qi Xin, project executive of media and education at Smile Angel Foundation.

"The camp aims to help them communicate more with others and boost their confidence by teaching them singing, drawing and performing," she said.

According to the foundation, a surgery costs 8,000 yuan (\$1,290) to 10,000 yuan on average. Many children who come from poverty-stricken families did not start their first repairing surgery until the age of six, such as Tang. He comes from

a mountainous area in rural Guizhou province, and his family has an annual income of about 1,000 yuan.

"He is especially willing to talk to others, and is very thoughtful in his paintings," said Qi. "Most of them are intelligent and physically fit, aside from the cleft. However, their peers often isolate them. We should understand that they are the same as others."

Currently, there are about 2.4 million Chinese who were born with cleft disorders. The incidence happens to every two cases per 1,000 newborns. For children born with clefts, it is most appropriate to conduct the repair surgery when they are three to six months old. A complete cure requires a patient to go through five to six surgeries in different stages until they become adults.

Chen Linli, a 37-year-old volun-

teer at the camp who is cleft herself, holds a master's degree from the University of Warwick in England. Her mother trained her to speak and study when she was young, and she speaks fluent English, Mandarin and Cantonese.

"It's critical to educate the parents to help their children, since many parents isolate their children from others," Chen said.

Gao Wai, a teacher who leads the children at the camp, said the children are very smart and easier to teach than he expected.

"The society should help these children have a positive mindset and outlook in life," he said. "I hope they do not compare themselves with others, and instead do the best for themselves."

Zhu Wenqian contributed to this story.

# Realty mogul sets up Harvard education fund

By ELIZABETH WU in New York for China Daily

The billionaire couple who founded Chinese real estate company SOHO China have given \$15 million to Harvard University as part of a \$100 million endowment they are establishing for underprivileged Chinese students to attend top universities around the world.

CHARITY

Zhang Xin, SOHO's CEO and her husband Pan Shiyi have set up the SOHO China Scholarship with the donation to Harvard.

"Getting the best education should not only be for those who have the means — it should be for those with the talent," Zhang told The Wall Street Journal.

Harvard enrolls mostly Chinese students who are sent to the United States for high school by their wealthy parents. Zhang said that the message she and her husband want to send is that SOHO scholarship money is available and "if you're good enough you should apply."

Zhang was a factory worker in Hong Kong and then studied on

full scholarships at the University of Sussex and Cambridge University in the UK.

She went on to become an investment banker at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Her husband grew up in an impoverished part of western China. The couple have a combined wealth of about \$3.6 billion, according to Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute.

In June 2013, a group led by Zhang paid a reported \$1.4 billion for a 40 percent stake in the most expensive US building on the market — the General Motors office tower in midtown Manhattan.

In one of the largest purchases of a single US property by a Chinese investor, the family of Zhang, head of the largest property developer in Beijing and Shanghai, teamed up with Brazil's Safra family to buy the interest in the 50-story white marble-clad landmark once owned by Donald Trump.

SOHO China started a foundation to build schools in rural areas of Qinghai and Gansu in western China where Zhang's husband grew up. Zhang and her husband said they are looking to set up other endowments at US colleges and



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ZHANG XIN  
CEO OF SOHO

abroad. "It's my turn to be generous to others," she told the Journal.

China currently accounts for the largest contingent of foreign students, with more than 235,000 studying in the US in the 2012-2013 school year, up 21 percent from the previous year, according to the Journal.

Julia Chang Bloch, president of the US China Education Trust, and a Harvard alumnus, said that Harvard will accept a student regardless of their ability to pay, but the SOHO scholarship "will level the playing field for Chinese poor students to go to Harvard."

Bloch became the first Chinese-American US ambassador when she was appointed to Nepal.

The US China Education Trust, a nonprofit organization she founded in Washington, promotes US-China relations through education and exchanges. Bloch received her master's in government and East Asia studies from Harvard.

In 1988 she and her husband Stuart Marshall Bloch established the FY. Chang Foundation in honor of Bloch's father, Chang Fuyun, the first Chinese national to graduate from Harvard Law School.

Their foundation offers scholarships to Chinese students studying law at Harvard. Launched in 2007, the foundation also provides the Maurice "Hank" Greenberg Scholarship to Chinese students at Yunnan University and Shandong University in China.

Bloch said the contribution to Harvard "is terrific, it really shows China's rising power."

"It is an example of China's maturity as a leader, as a major power, the soft power for any major country is philanthropy," she said. "China's changing philanthropy is really in its infancy."

# Companies helping Hebei cut pollution

By ZHENG JINRAN in Shijiazhuang and LAN LAN in Beijing

An increasing number of companies in China's most polluted region of Hebei have gained green loans with emission permits as pledges, following the guideline launched by the province to strengthen financial support for environmentally friendly industries and projects.

All the major companies in the steel, cement, electricity generation and glass industries will have the emissions permits, which aim to control the total pollutants emitted, said Li Bao, deputy head of the province's environmental protection bureau.

The move encourages participants to perform better in environmental protection, with financial support, and it can help the industries restrict pollution as part of the national promotion on emission trading.

"(It (the mortgage service) encourages the initiatives of companies to cut down pollutants' emissions, then fuels them to adopt green technology to further reduce pollution," said Wang Xiaojiang, professor at Hebei University of Economics and Business and also a professional consultant to the bureau.

Hebei has experienced serious smog that lingers longer than in other major cities. It has required considerable effort such as cutting outdated capacity in highly polluted industries like iron and steel to start the emissions trading that will keep a tight rein on pollution.

The province's regulation stipulates that emissions allowances for major pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides will be restricted, in terms of a loan-to-value ratio, to a maximum of 90 percent.

It is the first official policy since the emerging emissions market started in June 2013. Until March of this year, 42 companies had applied for the loans, of which 13 managed to receive loans of 86 million yuan (\$1.4 million) in total.

More than 10,000 tons of pollutants have been mortgaged, according to the report from the Shijiazhuang branch of Everbright Bank, the major financial partner and green loan lender in Hebei.

A chemical company producing xylene applied for a loan and received 5 million yuan (\$805,582) after mortgaging its emission permits worth of 6.81 million yuan (\$1.1 million), which helped the company's growth.

"The credit extension is only for companies with good credit in production and environmental protection," said Gao Ming'an, manager of the Shijiazhuang branch of Everbright. Any companies with excessive emissions or responsible for a pollution incident will be forbidden from applying.

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