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US youths' visit refreshes ties of several decades

Students from Muscatine High School express good wishes with Chinese peers

By ZHANG YUNBI and ZHANG YU in Zhengding, Hebei

At many tourist attractions in China, red ribbons that bear visitors' signatures and auspicious phrases, such as wishes for career success or a healthy family, are tied to trees, handrails and other objects for good luck.

The red ribbons proved popular on Saturday among a United States delegation of students from Muscatine High School in the US state of Iowa and their Chinese peers from Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School in Hebei province.

While gathering around a kiosk selling the red ribbons at Longxing Temple in Zhengding county, Hebei, the high-spirited students could be heard exclaiming "Look what I've got", "Put it here", or "I love this one!"

Known for its outstanding architecture, frescoes and stone sculptures, the famous Buddhist temple is a national-level cultural heritage protection site.

It has been well preserved, thanks to the efforts of people including President Xi Jinping when he was deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China's Zhengding county

committee in 1982-83 and secretary from 1983 to 1985.

At that time, Xi spent a great deal of time and energy to get a special fund allocated to the county for the restoration of ancient buildings and sites, including Longxing Temple.

Xi was also among those who worked on building the bonds between Zhengding and the Iowa city of Muscatine, as he led a five-person delegation to places including Muscatine during a visit to the US in 1985.

During the students' short stay at the serene temple before dinnertime on Saturday, the young people from China and the US were able to leave a mark of their new friendship.

Three of the US students partnered with three Chinese girls to buy a red ribbon.

Yuan Yifan, one of the three third-year high school girls from Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School, paid for the red ribbon, which cost her 10 yuan (\$1.38).

Printed in yellow on the ribbon were two phrases in Chinese — "splendid future" and "accomplishments in career". Red and yellow are auspicious colors that are frequently used in Chinese art.

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Experts, executives dismiss 'overcapacity' narrative

By WANG KEJU, LIU ZHIHUA and MA SI

China holds a significant position in the global supply chain, although that's not due to Chinese policy, but rather the result of companies and consumers worldwide making their own decisions, experts and executives said.

After all, they added, China, as the world's second-largest economy, has a comparative advantage in its economic model — one that makes it the go-to manufacturing hub of the world.

The so-called "China overcapacity" narrative has been employed by certain Western countries, primarily the United States, as a political tool to tarnish and suppress the Chinese economy, the observers said. Behind the slander lies an agenda of

anti-globalization and protectionism that ultimately hinders normal global trade and undermines the common interests of nations, they said.

During US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's trip to China in early April, her second visit to the country in nine months, she made the comment that China is flooding global markets with cheap goods, particularly in new green industries.

The narrative has been translated into concrete actions such as probes launched by the US and the European Union into China's electric vehicles, based on unfounded allegations of state subsidies and aiming to choke the role of China's green product supply.

The notion of excess capacity should not be simplified or attributed solely to one country, Premier Li Qiang said during talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Beijing last week.

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Future sailors



Children learn about flag signals on Saturday during an open day event of the People's Liberation Army Navy in Qingdao, Shandong province. From Saturday to Wednesday, the public in Qingdao can tour Navy vessels berthed at the port. Visitors will also have the chance to interact with members of the Navy. The event is held to mark the 75th anniversary on Tuesday of the founding of the PLA Navy. FU TIAN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE



Racers prepare to leave the grid for the formation lap before the Formula One Chinese Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit on Sunday. CLIVE MASON / FORMULA 1 VIA GETTY IMAGES

Formula 1 Grand Prix makes roaring comeback

By SHI FUTIAN in Shanghai shifutian@chinadaily.com.cn

The deafening roar of engines and the thunderous applause from packed stands at the Shanghai International Circuit bore testimony to how warmly the Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix was welcomed over the weekend by motor sports enthusiasts, as the high-octane racing event made a comeback after five years.

Speed, passion and intense wheel-to-wheel battles wowed spectators for three days at the F1 circuit, where Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing converted his pole position into victory on Sunday. McLaren's Lando Norris and Red Bull's Sergio Perez finished second and third, respectively.

"It felt amazing," Verstappen said after winning the race. "All weekend I think we were incredibly quick. It was just enjoyable to drive every single tire compound as well. The car was basically on rails, I could do whatever I wanted to with it, and those kinds of weekends are of course amazing to feel. Then, to achieve what we did this weekend is fantastic."

This year's Chinese GP was particularly popular, as fans waited for five years for its return since 2019, when F1 staged its 1,000th grand prix in China. It also marked the 20-year anniversary of the event's debut in China in 2004.

According to media reports,



Red Bull Racing driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates on the podium on Sunday after winning the Chinese Grand Prix.

WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

more than 200,000 people visited the Shanghai International Circuit over the past three days. Among them, 80 percent were not Shanghai residents and 10 percent were from foreign countries and regions.

In early January, the tickets for this year's Chinese GP were sold out within a few minutes of the booking window opening. In comparison, the event had attracted about 160,000 people over three days in 2019.

Not just Chinese motor sports fans, but the entire F1 community

has been excited about the event's return to China.

"I love this place. The circuit is very challenging, Turn 1 being the most special corner, very unique in the championship. (There are) lots of overtaking opportunities. So good racing," said F1 world champion Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin.

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari said: "I have only raced twice here. But it's always been a very, very interesting track. Very nice track to drive on, and a track where there are many, many different lines possible. And

all those long corners — there are different ways of taking those corners, which makes it exciting for us."

Another major attraction of this year's F1 Chinese GP was the appearance of China's first ever F1 driver Zhou Guanyu. It was the first time for Zhou, who started his career in 2022 when the Chinese GP was not on the F1 calendar, to compete in front of home fans.

"I'm a little bit emotional, and I have shown all that I can on the track inside the circuit. For me, this is a very exciting weekend with mixed feelings. There are so many fans here to support me. Years ago, it's unthinkable that there will be a Chinese driver in F1 Chinese GP. And now it's me who stands here as a Chinese F1 driver," said Zhou, a Stake F1 Team Kick Sauber hire who finished 14th among 20 drivers.

"Over the past years, I have been through many difficulties. And at this moment, I have released all my pressures. I made some mistakes on the track during the weekend, and I know I can be better. This is my debut at the Shanghai International Circuit, and I'm deeply touched by fans here. They gave us the best atmosphere. I'm so happy," he said.

Zhou said that his dream started in Shanghai and, now, he has returned to the city as an F1 driver. "With my own experiences, I want to inspire a new generation of people to give all they have to chase their dreams. Just march forward with great confidence."

CULTURAL JOURNEY

CHINA'S ANCIENT ARTWORKS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FRAME

Collection on display at Venice Biennale inspired by project to compile and catalog cultural treasures

Editor's note: China, a country with a long and splendid cultural history, demonstrates its exceptional achievements via numerous heritage sites, intangible cultural heritage items, tourism attractions and old neighborhoods. Follow China Daily's reporters as they travel across the nation to explore these inspiring legacies.

By DENG ZHANGYU dengzhangyu@chinadaily.com.cn

Hundreds of ancient paintings and large contemporary artworks have undertaken a special train journey across two continents, leaving Zhengzhou in Henan province in March and arriving in Italy in April for their debut at the Venice Art Biennale. *Atlas: Harmony in Diversity*, the exhibition at China's National



Pavilion, which opened on Thursday, features prints, videos, sculptures, installations and performances.

All the works are from or are inspired by *A Comprehensive Collection of Ancient Chinese Paintings*, a large book project that has systematically compiled images of

paintings, some of which date back 2,000 years.

The exhibition is divided into two sections. One is an archive displaying 100 high-fidelity prints of treasured Chinese paintings in the collections of museums outside China, as well as documents recording how these ancient treasures were created, left China, and eventually entered the collections of museums around the world.

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