On November 15, the visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping met in Singapore with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and together witnessed the signing ceremony of Sino-Singapore cooperation agreement. This included the Agreement on the Details of Implementation between the National University of Singapore and Suzhou Municipal Government (SIP Administrative Committee) on the Joint Establishment of the National University of Singapore (Suzhou) Research Institute. On the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Singapore, Xi Jinping and Lee Hsien Loong reiterated the close cooperation between the two countries, and agreed to enhance the relationship by making full use of the existing bilateral cooperative mechanisms and projects. To further promote the cooperation in education, in accordance with the agreement, National University of Singapore (Suzhou) Research Institute (NUSRI) and a cooperative college by the Nanyang Technological University will be set up respectively in SIP and Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city. The two successful models of friendly cooperation will lay down a new chapter in Sino-Singapore relations in higher education and research. Relying on the advantages of the academic disciplines of the alma mater, and catering to the relevant research fields of SIP, the NUSRI is reported to embrace programs of water resources and sustainable environment development, finance, the application of information technology software and digital media.

National University of Singapore to open Suzhou Research Institute

Vice President Xi Jinping and Singapore PM attend the ceremony

Feature: SEID hails Zhizhen Li, the youngest bone marrow donor of Suzhou

SEE PAGE 8
The 3rd Dushu Lake China Venture Capital Summit & the 1st China-Korea VC/PE Summit (2010 CIFC Annual Conference) was held on November 27th at Dushu Lake Hotel.

This event was co-sponsored by a number of organisations including China Council for International Investment Promotion, Investment and Financing Committee (CIFC), Suzhou Industrial Park Administrative Committee, Korean Venture Capital Company and Suzhou Ventures Group.

Nearly 150 partner investors from China and South Korea attended the conference.

Established in 2008 and aimed to forge a summit-level exchange platform of venture industries in China, Dushu Lake China Venture Capital Summit is a grand event introducing Chinese ventures industry to the outside world.

On the theme of “new opportunities for VC/PE Investment in Asia”, the summit this year invited elites in the investment and financing field from China and South Korea to discuss on topics such as “future investment hotspots in Asia” and “China-Korea VC/PE investment environment and strategies”. With the participation of leaders of relevant South Korean government organs and top-level managers and partners, the forum this year was aimed at in-depth China-South Korea cooperation on the venture investment.

Dushu Lake Sci-Edu Innovation District holds 3rd China Venture Capital Summit

On the afternoon of Nov. 19th, Chen Zhuquan, president of the National University of Singapore, and his party visited Science and Education Innovation District. During this visit, Chen Zhuquan deliberately came to the temporary office building of Suzhou Research Institute of NUS to visit and said, “It has a very comfortable working environment here”.

The temporary office building of Suzhou Research Institute of NUS lies to the east of administrative building of HET University Affairs Office including offices and multimedia classrooms. The simple but neat offices are fully equipped and properly furnished.

Two multimedia classrooms can hold over 100 people at a time. From now to the end of 2011, staff from Suzhou Research Institute of NUS will use the temporary office building to work on the scientific research and innovation and training projects.

Greg B. Scott, President & Founder of ChinaBio

2010 BioBay Investor Forum kicks off

BioBay Investor Forum 2010, jointly organized by Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) BioBay and ChinaBio, kicked off on November 3 in Suzhou Dushu Lake Hotel, attended by over 200 entrepreneurs of long-founded Chinese bio-tech companies and over 40 VC institutions from around the world.

Praised as the sci-tech park with the most adequate industrial chain and fastest development in the field, BioBay currently has clustered over 170 enterprises. Held in such a typical park of Chinese new-emerging bio-tech enterprises, the international investor forum has attracted practically all the VC enterprises focused on bio-tech industry.
CHInano Forum 2010 boosts nanotech development

CHInano Forum 2010, jointly organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Jiangsu Provincial People's Government, and coordinated by Jiangsu Science and Technology Department and Suzhou Municipal People's Government, was unveiled on November 13 in Suzhou International Expo Center.

This event attracted top nano technology experts from China, America, Japan, Germany, Russia, Britain, etc. to discussions on the perspectives of nanotechnology. In the meantime, as an important part of the 2nd China Jiangsu Conference for International Technology Transfer and Commercialization, the forum won strong support from Jiangsu Provincial People's Government.

The high level of experts, the wide range of research, and the large number of participating institutions and enterprises were most inspiring to those of the academic circles, who deemed the topics and industrial cooperation directions on the forum as the frontier of current nano-tech research.

The international nano circles showed great attention to the forum, and some internationally-known institutions such as Tekes, Bayer and National Science Foundation sent their representatives to the forum.

The forum had 6 keynote speeches by experts from 5 countries, and 106 special reports centering on nanotech for optoelectronic applications, micro-and nano-manufacturing, nano-biomedicine and safety, nanotechnology for advanced materials, energy and environmental nanotechnology.

The opening and Signing ceremony between SIPAC and Tekes was also held for the cooperation in the related R&D and industrialisation of nano-tech, and expansion of mutual cooperation areas from the single nanotech to the related industries of nano, functional materials and pharmaceutical.

Held simultaneously with the forum, the exhibition of nanotech achievements and products attracted over 100 exhibitors, including first-class research institutions of National Center for Nanoscience and Technology, and National Engineering Research Center for Nanotechnology, Transpacific, and CIMA, to showcase their latest application results of nanotech.

China’s 3D cartoon “Nono Forest” makes way into BBC

The broadcasting rights of NoNo Forest, a 400-minute 3-D TV cartoon series full of Chinese-style humor with no dialogue, was purchased by BBC at MIPTV 2010, as the first original Chinese 3-D cartoon introduced to BBC.

Suzhou Shiao Animation Co., Ltd., a leading enterprise in the national animation industry based in Suzhou International Science Park, has independently completed the NoNo Forest, including the image designing, script, scenes, music, lighting, and editing.

The NoNo Forest tells interesting stories of a group of heroes with distinctive characters in the forest, including the primitive with big eyes, giant green carpenter worm, and pink wild boar with cute back teeth. Different from other cartoons, the NoNo Forest tells stories through the switch of actions, expressions, and scenes without dialogue.

Suzhou claims 1st national-level specialised University Science Park

On November 10, Suzhou Nano-tech University Science Park was awarded the plaque jointly by Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Education in Shanghai, as the first national-level university science park with distinct specialized discipline in China.

Suzhou Nano-tech University Science Park is a professional park, which has preliminarily acquired the features of nanotechnology and the administration-production-teaching-research-funding mechanism.

Up till now, the Park has clustered a great batch of high-level universities and research institutions of the nano-tech field from home and overseas and attracted over 150 enterprises; it is also incubating over 100 enterprises, giving strong backup to regional commercialization of scientific results and cultivation of innovative and start-up talents.

It is reported that Suzhou Industrial Park will increase input to vigorously bring into SIP nano-tech results conversion centers, R&D centers, key labs and engineering centers of universities at home and abroad, and to endeavor to forge Suzhou Nano-tech University Science Park into the cradle of the innovation of Chinese nano-tech industry and industrialisation, whilst building up Suzhou Dushu Lake Sci-Edu Innovation Park into the frontier landmark of Chinese nano-tech industry.

The 1st International NanoArt Exhibition opens in SIP

The 1st International NanoArt Exhibition, organized by Tongji University and Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), was unveiled on November 13 in Suzhou Science and Cultural Arts Centre.

It was the first time that China had hosted the art exhibition of popular science, which displayed more than 100 art works of painting, photography, equipment, sculpture, multimedia, interaction, etc. selected from over 500 works from scientists, science fans, artists and art aficionados. This grand art and science feast will also be moved in late December to Shanghai for exhibition.

With the in-depth development of nano-technology, nano-art would become a separate genre of art pushed forward by the artists and designers. It was introduced with the purpose of demonstrating the nano science with artistic image was to help the public to gain a better understanding of nano technology.
SEID hosts 3rd Corporate Summit in strategic planning

With the first session held in May in Singapore, the 3rd Corporate Summit was moved to SIP Dushu Lake Sci-Edu Innovation Park and attracted lots of enterprises in the Yangtze River Delta region.

The forum aims to tackle the major current problems in Chinese corporate governance and financial supervision, and put forward proposals as to how enterprises should solve problems in the financial crisis.

Prof. Yang Zhi, Deputy-dean of International College of Remin University said, "As SIP is actively forging its own financial CBD, we organize the forum in the hope of giving intellectual support for the management, development and strategic planning of Suzhou enterprises, and serving SIP’s economy.”

Dayton University to join SEID

On December 3, SIP Administrative Committee and the U.S. University of Dayton signed an agreement at Dushu Lake Hotel.

The two sides agreed to set up Dayton China Research Institute (Suzhou) in Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District with the strategic aim to build the Research Institute into a Chinese base for the transfer of Dayton’s high-tech research results and the training of high-end talents.

Dr. Daniel J. Curran, President of University of Dayton, Yang Zhiping, Director of SIP Administrative Committee, Deputy Director Su Bo, Sun Yanyan, and Ye Feng, Deputy Director of SEID Administrative Committee, attended the signing event.

Founded in 1850, University of Dayton is the largest private university in the state of Ohio, U.S.A., and one of the top 100 American academic institutions ranked in “U.S. News and World Report”, whose programmes in materials and electro-optics ranked in the top 5 in the U.S.
XJTLU students: learning English is fun!

XJTLU student reporters, Yifan Cao and Xinru Ni interview first-year students about their special way of taking English courses:

Can you ever imagine designing a rubbish cleaning boat in your English classes? Yes! That is what year 1 students majoring in Engineering at XJTLU do for homework in their English classes. “Funny, useful and meaningful”, this is how Yining Pan, one student who has just shown their team’s boat model in front of her classmates, described about this unusual group project.

Year 1 students majoring in Engineering were asked to invent a simple boat as a team that could be used to clean rubbish from Suzhou’s canals and waterways. They were also required to build a model for their boats using waste materials and keep a diary of what they have done from start to finish. After that, they had to present their final products to their classmates through group presentation. “When we got this assignment we were really surprised because we have never done anything like it and that was quite a challenge,” Yining Pan and her team shared their experience with us.

“As we were working as a team, it was also important for us to put forward our own ideas as well as accept others.” Ninghuan Jiang, the designer of the boat added his feeling about teamwork. “As for me, I think I became more active to learn. Our teacher, Mr Savery, always emphasized the importance of autonomous learning and during the project, we had to learn a lot about building a model. We used Internet to gather information and Yining even went to Tongli to study the rubbish cleaning boat there.” Hanwen Chen, another member of the team said.

“Well, teamwork and active learning were important; however, what I learned most is the skills in presentation.” Jinghao Song, the presenter in the team added, “Through this presentation, I became more confident about giving a speech in front of people. What’s more, questions from the audience made me think from other angles and that improved my critical thinking.”

Apart from the gains from the project, the four freshmen also talked about their feelings of studying in XJTLU: “I enjoy the freedom here! At XJTLU, we can display our opinions without any constraints. We can sail our imagination like we sail our boat,” Yining said. “What I enjoy the most is the academical English environment here. We can immerse ourselves in such a friendly and comfortable environment with English native speakers.” Jinghao added.

“I set this project because I want my students to do something different and innovative.” Mr Jonathan Savery, a teacher from ELC of XJTLU who designed the boat project, told us.

“Western cultures, doing practical group projects like this is actually quite normal, but it is new in Chinese culture. Students can practice their skills in language, cooperation, teamwork, imagination, planning, collecting information and presentation through this project. Also, as they are students who are going to be engineers in the future, it is important to give them the chance to do something that can get their hands dirty. At last, they actually impressed me a lot by their amazing performance!”

XJTLU to use world-leading student information system

XJTLU signed the agreement for the brand new Student Information System this week, in partnership with one of the market leaders, Tribal plc. UK. Tribal’s flexible and distinctive system is already used by near 130 higher education institutions around the globe, including: London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Edinburgh and University of Sydney. XJTLU has now joined this list and in doing so has become the first University in China with such a system.

Mr. Jonathan Garnett, Chief Executive of Tribal Education, described the system’s main benefit as “increasing student interactivity [with the school] so it becomes a whole management system of the university…from recruitment, during their degree, right the way through to when they’re alumni.” He went into greater detail, explaining how through their mobile phones, students can “find out where they have to be, when they have to be there, what course work is due and what marks they get.”

The bespoke Student Information System will enable XJTLU to better and more efficiently manage and share student information, with each student having a unique record that includes their personal details and academic performance. This latest agreement shows XJTLU’s commitment to its mission to lead and innovate in teaching, research and university management.

XJTLU awarded 3rd NSFC Fund in 2010

Recently, Dr. Hao Yu of XJTLU was informed of his successful application for National Natural Science Foundation of China, with his program “Mechanics of Spin—Polarized Current and Nano Machine”, becoming the 3rd NSFC funding program awarded to XJTLU in 2010.

Dr. Hao Yu is the lecturer at XJTLU Centre for Mathematics and Physics. He received his PhD in Physics from Nanjing University, and worked at Suzhou Nanotech Institute of Chinese Academy of Science prior to joining XJTLU. Currently, Dr. Hao Yu is also undertaking Jiangsu Natural Science Foundation Program “A Novel Magnetic Field Sensor of Flexible Magnetolectric Materials”, and Suzhou Science Fund Program “Magnetotactic Bacteria Integrated Magnetic Field for Treating Heavy Metals in Sludge: the New Technology and Device”.

This young researcher said: “The University always encourages academic staff to conduct research activities and especially in this year, the newly launched University Research Fund provides us with extra support.”
SEID to build Nanotech highlands

If SIP is an ‘exuberant city’, then Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District is the ‘Dreamworks’ of the city. This wonderland welcomes everybody.

---Mr Ye Feng
Deputy Director of Working Committee and Administrative Committee of SEID, Director of Administrative Office of HET

7 Projects:

√ 2nd phase of Suzhou Nanotech Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences
√ BioBay North Part
√ “Suzhou Nano City”
√ Suzhou National Nanotech Science Industrial Park
√ Nanotech Incubation Base and Emerging Industry Base
√ 2nd phase (Engineering Building) of Soochow University Dushu Lake campus

By the completion of the 7 projects in SEID, it is expected that an amount of over 30 billion would come in as social investments which will drive the output value of related fields to millions and offer 120,000 jobs for high-end talents. 7 projects will form a well-combined system of industry cooperation, technical services, scientific results transformation, talents storage and policy supports in the emerging industry such as nanotech.

Figures:

√ More than 130 labs and research platforms of all kinds were introduced;
√ 16 universities and colleges entered the district for more than 260 majors; about 10,000 Master’s and Ph.D students on campus;
√ More than 30,000 employees in SEID, 7,609 in every 10,000 people are holding Bachelor’s Degrees or above; this district has the highest ratio of academic talents in Suzhou.

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The lives of 6 pairs of twins at XJTLU

“I choose the second one, because I want to visit some beautiful places.” Menglei Li, a girl from Rizhao city, Shandong province, said with excellent pronunciation in a large English class. She has made rapid progress in her spoken English after studying at XJTLU for nearly 3 months.

When the bell goes for the end of class, Li Mengyu, the older twin sister, is already waiting for her. They are just one of six pairs of twins starting their brand new university lives at XJTLU this September.

Our English teacher will involve everybody into the class; my foreign teacher is very nice to us. We have many opportunities to use English and to experience western cultures in class.” Mengyu Li said, “However, we are not allowed to fool around like in high school. We are expected to follow the rules. For instance, it is unacceptable not to hand in assignments on time and plagiarism is forbidden.”

They found new English names after coming to XJTLU. The older sister is named Maureen, while the younger Molly.

“We got our English names from the Internet because they are very close to the pronunciation of our Chinese names,” said Meiya Li, very satisfied with her new name, “I really did not like the ones our high school English teachers gave us, these ones suit us much better.”

Dr. Peiling Xing, who graduated from the University of Dundee, UK, and has more than ten years’ experience in English teaching, teaches Mengyu Li’s EAP (English for Academic Purpose) class.

“She is good at writing and only needs to improve her expression ability,” Dr. Xing added, “No matter it is in the East or the West, university is different from high school. Students have more time of their own and self-study thus becomes an important way of learning.”

Qi-Yu Twins: enriched life and study

Different from the Menglei Li twins, Qi Yuan and Yu Yuan are boy-girl twins.

The twin sister, Yu, who chose to study in the Department of Business, Economics and Management, is very business-savvy. After the University’s 2010 Welcome Party, the freshman Yu Yuan organised an ingenious “light show” party with about 50 Kong Ming Lanterns.

“About 100 students attended the party. Every body was very happy. It was a great success.” In order to prepare for this party, she spent one month carefully planning and arranging details, such as weather conditions, location and coordination. After 3 months at XJTLU, Yu Yuan has now got greater objectives: to open a small shop in the Student Entrepreneurship Centre.

“It will be a small DIY shop, perhaps selling homemade cakes, Origami, chocolate and so on. It could also be worth selling the University’s souvenirs, such as cups or umbrella with its logo on. I shall ask my brother to help me if I am too busy!”

The brother, Qi Yuan was born only one minute earlier than his younger sister. His main activity after class is studying. “The atmosphere at XJTLU is excellent for studying but I am also a member of the snooker club.”

They still talk to their family regularly via on-line video. Their mother is very proud of them. “Each time I call, I hear that they are studying hard in class. I feel like they are really learning a lot on campus, which makes us really happy.”

Parents: worries were unnecessary

Just like the Menglei Li twins, the Qi Yuan siblings hold a wish that all the twins coming to XJTLU this year would have a gathering. Their wish came true at noon on November 6th. All six twins gathered at Homecook, a restaurant in students’ complex.

The Yan Xu and Xia Xu twins, also from Chongqing, came to the gathering. When talking about university life, the younger sister, Xia Xu was very excited. “The University gives us a box which only has frame. The structures inside the box need us to arrange ourselves.”

Yajing Tan and Yaqi Tan are from Henan province. One resembles their mother, the other their father. They also think highly of the colourful social scene at XJTLU, such as the various lectures, the Chinese and English debating contests, and the Model United Nations.

Like the Menglei Li twins, Yelu Shi and Yemiao Shi, from Ningbo, Zhejiang province, also expressed their fondness to the English language teaching at XJTLU. “My foreign English teacher’s class is very novel. He will engage us, rather than tell us the answers directly. We can talk about our hometowns, snacks, attractions and our hobbies freely in English. It is very relaxing.” The twins are currently busy recommending their father, an entrepreneur experienced in enterprise management, as a tutor of XJTLU External Mentoring Scheme to share his experience with more students.

Wenyuan Zhou and Wenbai Zhou, from Huan’an city, Jiangsu province, said that the English teachers from different countries offer them the opportunity to learn exotic cultures. The open teaching model provides them with more opportunities to express their opinions. Their father comes to visit them twice a month allowing them to have a meal together.

“My children often tell me that they feel positively encouraged in their study. I think this is a good thing because I used to worry most that they will mess around but not study enough when they go to college. “Now it turns out to be unnecessary. I am happy to see that my children are becoming more independent, critical in thinking and extrovert in XJTLU. I think our choice was the right one.”
On the morning of November 29th, Li Zhizhen, lay in bed for four hours at the First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University awaiting a bone marrow operation with anticipation. The researcher from Suzhou Research Institute of Xi’an Jiaotong University donated his bone marrow stem cells to a college student 7 years younger than him, becoming the 47th volunteer to donate hematopoietic stem cell in Suzhou city.

Li Zhizhen, at 23 years old, is the youngest donor at present in Suzhou. The collecting process and transplant operation were both successful, and he recovered rapidly under the meticulous care of his mother.

Born in Suzhou, Li returned to his hometown after graduating from university in July this year. He is now working in the Laboratory for Electric Vehicle and System Control of Suzhou Research Institute of Xi’an Jiaotong University.

“Have always wanted the opportunity to make my normal life, ‘great for one time’, which is mine and my friends fortune,” Li Zhizhen said, “I think everyone can make such a small sacrifice to save another’s life.” Li’s mother had some wise words too, “Every family has only one child, we must save him/her if we can. To save a child is to save a family.”

Li wrote about his donating experience for the Suzhou Branch Red Cross Society of China. He has very liberal parents who are very kind and understand their son well.

When Li explained his intention to donate bone marrow, to his relief, they were very supportive and respected his decision. The teachers and seniors in the Laboratory of Suzhou Research Institute also showed real encouragement, helping Li catch up with his course and important research work.

The father of Li Zhizhen is a young stem cell donor of Suzhou. He is also alumnus of Xi’an Jiaotong University. Upon graduation, he was engaged in technical work in a company in Suzhou. His father believes it is important for his son to learn good morals as well as keep on learning for a master degree while working – a pretty busy schedule.

When asked what he was thinking about at this moment, Li Zhizhen smiled and said that he only hoped that the bone marrow transplant could be successful, and the recipient to get better and return to university to complete their studies. Also he couldn’t wait to go back to the Laboratory in Suzhou Research Institute of Xi’an Jiaotong University and work with his colleagues as soon as possible.

Buddha said: “saving one’s life is more important than setting up a pagoda.” Though Li Zhizhen is not a Buddhist, he is convinced that people are basically good, and people should help each other.

Li and his family saved a young life with their pure heart, courage and love.

Today, the same warm sunlight is shining on the faces of these two young men, the same smile lighting up on the faces of two families, the same blood flowing in both young lives!
International College of Renmin University holds Japanese-Chinese Language Contest

On Nov. 21st, the first Japanese–Chinese bilingual speech contest was held in Xiu Yuan Building in International College of Renmin University (Suzhou Research Institute). The topic of this contest was “Cultural and Historical Customs of China and Japan”. Contestants can start to compete with conversations or free speeches. 35 outstanding contestants managed to get to the qualifying stage.

During the contest, contestants expounded their own opinions in aspect of history, traditional culture, varied thought patterns of both nations, etc. The unique perspectives and distinctive speaking styles not only indicate their profound bilingual knowledge but also show their awareness and distinctive perspectives in social problems.

After a 3-hour fierce competition, each prize found its owner. Sun Mingli and Chu Huichao from International College of Renmin University of China (Suzhou Research Institute) won the special prize, while Sakadori Naohiro and Tai Lijuan got champions for Chinese speech and Japanese speech respectively. Xue Shuai, Tian Yixiu, Zhang Xiaoyan and other students won the other prizes.

After the contest, participants said that this high-level competition broadened their horizon, and gave them an in-depth understanding on China-Japanese culture. They hope that there will be more participants in the future, and look forward to the speech contest next year.

Gifts for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is one of the most important festival for the USA. In order to give foreign guests the feeling of home in China, International Academic Communication Centre (IACC) sent their best presents and wishes to every family in Experts’ Apartment for the coming Thanksgiving. Guests spoke highly of the thoughts, and offered their constructive proposals to the apartment management. Some of them even sent cards to express their thanks.

The experts’ apartment came into service in 2005, and has attracted guests from over 20 countries and regions for its standard facilities and extraordinary services. Up till now, there are 20 families from 8 countries including USA, UK, Germany, Australia, etc. living in the apartments. With different national flags hanging at their doorstep, the apartment is given the name “mini-UN”, and has become an unsmissable site in the HET international community.

In recent years, the number of foreign guests in the apartments managed by IACC is on the rise. Apart from the experts’ apartment, there are over 200 overseas students and teachers living in other apartments for the short term. IACC will continue paying close attention to the improvement of professional services and continue to provide exclusive services for their customers.

Basketball Tournament of SEID closes

2010 SEID Basketball Tournament closed its curtain on Nov. 11th at Hong Kong University Space Global College. This tournament was sponsored by HET Youth League Committee and undertook by Hong Kong University Space Global College. HET Sports Centre has also fully supported this event aiming to enhance the friendship among students in Sci-Edu Innovation District, and to enrich sports lives and encourage students to take part in sports.

8 teams participated in this event. After 24 matches in 2 weeks, teams from Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Hong Kong University Space Global College, Global Institute of Software Technology and Suzhou Industrial Park Institute of Services Outsourcing fought their way into semi-finals.

After fierce competition, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University and Hong Kong University Space Global College finally met in the final. The final began at 11.00 am on Nov. 21st. The high competitiveness made it a very close-fought and exciting match. Finally, with extraordinary skills, the team of Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University won the trophy, and Hong Kong University Space Global College, the second place.
10 Activities

On Nov. 9th, the city’s first fire-fighting sports meet began at Sports Park beside Dushu Lake. 112 athletes from 14 universities and colleges, such as Suzhou Research Institute of University of Science and Technology of China, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University and Soochow University took part in the sports meet.

This sports meet is deliberately calculated to popularize the knowledge of fire safety, enhance the awareness of fire control for schools, and improve fire-fighting skills.

All the contestants are either staff or students. At the site of this event, the vibe was very heated. “I use the actual fire-fighting tools today, before I have only seen firemen using them on TV. I just find out what tremendous hard work a fireman has to do. I can barely move with only a water hose”, said one of the contestants from Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University.

Zhu Feng, Captain of Fire Brigade of Dushu Lake Higher Education Town said that with over 680,000 teachers and students in Higher Education Town, the fire control system is at risk. They hope that this sports meet could help both the staff and students become more familiar with the fire-fighting equipment and raise the awareness of fire control in their daily lives. Those precautionary measures are most important.

Final Round of SEID “Top 10 Singers” ends

On Nov. 13th, the ultimate round of the 4th “Top 10 Singers” of Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District commenced at Dushu Lake Theatre.

20 students made their way through first round in 5 regions, as well as the quarter final and got themselves into the final ahead of over 500 contestants.

After two rounds taking four and a half hours, ten contestants, namely Li Shuang, Li Xinxu, Pi Weining, Ma Te, Zhong Zhaoyang, Zhao Ruochen, Xu Cong, Qian Kun, Li Nianxun, Ma Jin etc. received the title of “Ten Best Singers” in Higher Education Town.

The “Top 10 Singers” competition is a traditional, professional and influential event in SEID. Each previous competition created a big sensation in Dushu Lake. It is estimated that there are more than 1000 contestants, 20 games and 20,000 people have attended in the past 4 competitions.

SEID holds largest medical-related job fair

On Nov. 20th, the biological-related job fair tailored to 2011 graduates was held in the Dushu Lake Science & Education Talent Market. This job fair is co-sponsored by the Medical School of Soochow University and Science & Education Talent Market. 108 companies from 36 cities in 10 provinces went to the recruitment, offering up to 4000 jobs to undergraduates, graduates and Ph.Ds of medicine and related majors. It is the largest-scale special job fair for many years.

Gone are the days that all the employers only want Masters or Ph.Ds, this year many employers would also offer positions to undergraduates. Mr. Jin, the personnel manager of Jiangsu Armed Police General Hospital, expressed his satisfaction to the performance of two undergraduates recruited from Soochow University last year. Now they planned to recruit more college students to meet the needs of hospital. “We are looking forward to having those undergraduates who are both diligent and earnest.”

It is estimated that up to 1300 graduates have found potential employers in the job fair.
HKU SPACE Global student wins National English Evaluation contest

For two days, 500 participants converged at a nationwide public speaking convention and competition held in Beijing.

The lecturer of HKU SPACE Global College Suzhou, Kevin Goh, from the Business English specialization defeated 11 other contestants, previous winners from different parts of China to grab 3rd place in the English Evaluation contest.

Hosted by the US-based Toastmasters Club International, hundreds of participants from different industries and professional backgrounds, with participants from Macau and Hong Kong as well, met for the biannual conference held in the Grand Soluxe Schengen Hotel in Beijing. The purpose of the event was to learn the finesse of public speaking from US professional speech trainers.

This lecturer from HKU SPACE Global College Suzhou said, “I gained a lot of insights into speech training and I can definitely use this experience to give better feedback to my students. If not for the support from the college, I would not have reached this far.”

Goh is also the lecturer coordinating the HKU SPACE Global College Toastmasters Club, the first student chapter of Toastmasters in Jiangsu Province.

Set up in early 2010, the college chapter of Toastmasters Club has successfully sent students and lecturers for competitions at various levels.

Before reaching the Grand Finals in Beijing, Kevin Goh had to compete and win at three different levels in Suzhou, Nanjing and Shanghai respectively.

Despite being the least experienced contestant at Beijing, Goh won third place in the Grand Finals because of the constant evaluation and feedback he gives to his groups of students at the HKU SPACE Global College Toastmasters Club.

Held weekly since March 2010, the students and lecturers have been meeting regularly for public speaking with direct feedback given for prepared speeches.

The aim of the College Toastmasters Club is to help students gain confidence and become polished presenters.

They will gain valuable soft skills while at the same time enjoy interacting with fellow students and lecturers in English.

Qiming Psychological Counselling enters SEID

With the fast-paced development and increasing number of teachers and students in Higher Education Town, the need for mental health counseling is highly demanded. On Nov 10th, the professional psychological counseling and training institution “Qiming psychological” was introduced into Higher Education Town establishing the “soul station” here. The station will enrich the service system, improve the exchange platform and enhance the service and education level of mental health.

Ms. Zou Qun, Chief of HET University Affairs Office, sent his personal congratulations to the establishment of this institution. He said that the “soul station” will play a crucial role in optimizing the regional work system and the instructional capacity of mental health, as well as promoting the harmonious development of campus culture.

After the ceremony, the institution gave the first training seminar. The lecturer is Professor Fu Hong, Doctor of psychology of Hong Kong University, professor and deputy dean of School of Education Science, Nanjing Normal University, Ph. D. candidate director of developmental and educational psychology, and the deputy chairman of Jiangsu Psychological Association.

Over 100 counselors and student leaders from all the universities and colleges in Higher Education Town attended the lecture with the topic of “one falling leaf is indicative of the coming of autumn, one small action can take care of your soul”.

1st national-level post-doctoral workstation established in SIP

Recently, Suzhou BC Technologies Ltd. was certified as a subsection for national post-doctoral work. It is the first “national” enterprise post-doctoral research station in the National Science Park in Suzhou Industrial Park.

Postdoctoral research station of Suzhou BC Technologies Co., Ltd. was established in December, 2008.

The Suzhou branch plays a strong role for the company, giving free reign to personnel of high-level scientific research and innovative platform to accelerate the pace of technological development and transformation of scientific research achievements, whilst promoting independent innovation and integration process of “production, learning and research”.

Currently, there are five professors and three post-doctors in the workstation, mainly engaged in "integrated R & D of automobiles prototypes based on advanced manufacturing technology" and "key technology of super-high-speed precision CNC machine".

Driven by the post-doctoral workstation, Suzhou BC Technologies Ltd. has established a series of management systems and operation mechanisms.

Post-doctoral researchers have been involved in three national projects, and published 5 papers at home and abroad, successfully applied for four patents, been authorized one project, and have received more than RMB 300,000 from science and technology departments supportive fund.
People celebrate at a sports bar in Moscow upon hearing Russia have won the right to host the 2018 World Cup, December 2, 2010.

---Reuters/Denis Sinyakov

Britain’s PM David Cameron reaction as he hears about England’s unsuccessful FIFA 2018 World Cup bid.

---Reuters/Andrew Winning

Qatar’s bidding team and FIFA president Sepp Blatter (R) pose for the picture.

Reuters/Christian Hartmann

A U.S soccer fan waits for the announcement of the host country for the 2022 FIFA World Cup bid.

---Reuters/ Jonathan Ernst

Australian football fans reaction as Qatar win the 2022 FIFA Football World Cup.

---Reuters/ Tim Wimborne

2018 & 2022 World Cup Bids
Sub Editor Ms. Amandeep Gill shares her thoughts for the new year of 2011:

Despite being referred to as a “Time for Giving”, the festive period has become synonymous with overindulgence. As weeks of seasonal food and drink take their toll, fatigued partygoers embark on personal improvement in the form of New Year’s resolutions.

The practice of setting New Year’s resolutions dates back to Roman times, when resolutions were set in order to honor the Roman god Janus. The two-faced god reflected on the past whilst also looking forwards to the coming year.

During modern day periods of self improvement, common resolutions involve setting health goals, learning new skills or spending increased time with loved ones. Some dedicated individuals stay committed to their new goals; however the majority of resolutions are abandoned after a number of days or weeks.

In light of this high failure rate, it could be argued instead of focusing on self centered goals, we should spare a thought for charity. Taking on responsibility for improving the lives of others is a rewarding process, which often results in a longer term commitment to charitable goals.

In recent weeks, the spirit of charity has also been evident on XJTLU campus, with many student societies organizing events to raise awareness and funds for key issues. The 'Indonesian Charity week' was of particular note, with a weeklong series of events held celebrating Indonesian culture. A spate of natural disasters has hit the country, leaving behind a trail of destruction and many needy victims. In order to assist those affected by these devastating events, Indonesian students collected charitable donations for victims in their homeland.

The events included a cultural showcase which included singing performances and an exhibition of traditional Indonesian arts. Alongside cultural displays, entrepreneurial students also sold homemade vegetable juice as part of their fundraising activities. All proceeds collected by XJTLU students have been donated to the Indonesian Red Cross Society. The society has been at the forefront of the disaster relief process alongside providing long term support for victims in affected areas. Indonesian student Jervis highlighted that the events, were a way of showing people in their homeland that they had not been forgotten about.

**Berlin Symphoniker New Year Concert**

The Berliner Symphoniker and soprano Eva Lind visit Suzhou for a one-night only special New Year performance.

**Date:**
30th Dec. at 19:30

**Ticket:**
50/180/280/380/580/680/880/1280 (VIP)

**Place:**
Suzhou Science and Culture Arts Centre

**New Year’s Eve Annual Run**

The 5th annual 10km run starting at the Golden Lough. A 1.5km fun run will also be held for children. Places are limited! Register before December 15th.

**Date:**
16.30pm, Dec. 31st

**Price:**
40rmb / 20rmb for Chinese iPaoBu Members

**Registering Email:**
suzhourun@hotmail.com

**Shanghai National Music Orchestra – New Year’s Day concert**

A series of Chinese musical performances including guzheng, bamboo flute, suona, and erhu music will be presented by the Shanghai National Music Orchestra.

**Date:**
19.30pm on 1st January 2011

**Ticket:**
60/100/150/200/280/380/480/680 (VIP)

**Place:**
Suzhou Science and Culture Arts Centre
Christmas is traditionally a Christian celebration, commemorating the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago on the 25th December. However, nowadays, people of other/no faith have also adopted different parts of this holiday, from the Exchange of presents to the colourful decorations, as it is seen celebrated in almost every country around the world. Since China does not usually celebrate Christmas, Sub Editor Ross Carragher thought it would be interesting to give an insight into how it is celebrated by other cultures within SIP.

Tobias Braun (student of Soochow University) from Germany shares his funny story from when he was younger...

“The best present I ever got was a bicycle. It was a ‘Ferrari-red’ colour, with huge wheels, a rear-view mirror, 3 gears and looked a bit like a ‘chopper’ bike. Sadly it was a little too big for me, because at the time I was only 6 years old!”

“Still, I wanted to try riding my new bicycle with my dad and my brother, who is a year older than me so we went to a local park to practice. My brother tried first because it was easier for him to drive and everything seemed to be going well. Then, on the first turn, he lost control, hit the ground and my brand new bicycle was wrecked before I even had a go! The rear-view mirror broke and, because the ground was sand, the frame was scratched all over! A few months later I was eventually tall enough to ride my (now ugly) bicycle all by myself :-).”

Christian (XJTLU student) from the Seychelles reminisces about his favourite Christmas memories...

“I would say the best Christmas I have had was when I was aged 6-12, because my father would take the whole family back to Mauritius (where he was born). We would have a lovely meal, Exchange presents and have fun lighting the firecrackers and fireworks.”

Ellen (XJTLU student) from Indonesia talks about Christmas in an Indonesian family...

“At Christmas day, families will visit their church and pray for the whole morning. Then later on, we will meet up either in a house or restaurant to share food, songs and stories with each other. My favourite part of the day is when everybody helps each other put up the Christmas decorations around the house. Another tradition of ours is the ‘confession circle’: here everybody gathers round and is able to bring up any topic they like, be it happy or sad and discuss it with the family.”

Ka-Chun Liu (XJTLU student) from Hong Kong compares Christmas from her childhood and more recent times...

“My childhood memories are of me and my parents putting up the Christmas tree and spending a long time decorating to make it look pretty. After that we would eat at a nice restaurant and go on a walk to enjoy the outdoor Christmas lights of our local area. Now that I am grown up we still have Christmas dinner but are more likely to go on a shopping trip afterwards!”
As you can see, Christmas is celebrated in many different ways around the world, with each family having their own traditions, however small. So wherever you are on December 25th this year, whether you choose to have a customary Turkey dinner, give presents to friends and family or just put a Santa suit on your oblivious ihasa apso. Why not create your own family Christmas tradition this year?

Daniel Gorman (XJTLU student) describes a typical Australia’s Christmas day...

“Christmas at home falls in the middle of our summer, so it is very warm – around the 30°C mark. The whole family wakes up much earlier than usual to open presents, but we usually find the younger children have sneaked one in the night before.”

“Later on, about 30 people from my Mothers and Fathers side of the family come to our house for a big BBQ cooked by the men of the family, while the ladies play tennis or sit by the pool. Meanwhile the children play with their new toys, eat mangoes and pineapples and generally make a mess. There is plenty of food, drink and music that keep us going, often until the early hours.”

Daniel also had a story he felt he had to share about a woman he encountered on his travels last year...

“Leading up to Christmas I was travelling around Italy in the snow, so I decided to head down to Rome for some warmth. On Christmas Eve I joined a social group because I didn’t want to be alone and on the way there I was asked for some food by a homeless woman. I decided to skip the social dinner and instead bought a takeaway pizza to share with her. We ate and chatted for a while and I found she was very wise, although she had some bad luck in her life. It was a moment I will never forget.”

Linda Wu (student of XJTLU) explains how Taiwan has adopted the Christian Christmas since she was born...

“When I was a child Christianity was not very widespread in Taiwan and therefore we did not celebrate Christmas. My family only acknowledged it once I was enrolled in an International school after moving to China. From then on we used to go and watch performances at the school on Christmas Eve, then make our way home to hang up our stockings and secretly place our presents for others in their own stockings,”

“Now when I go back to Taiwan, I see many more people celebrating Christmas (both Christian and non-Christian) but I think it is too commercialised; most people don’t understand the meaning of Christmas and only view it as a reason to relax and have fun.”

Phillip Curry (teacher of HKU SPACE Global College) from the USA stresses the importance of Christmas Eve...

“Christmas Eve is actually a big part of the holiday for us. We gather late in the afternoon to decorate the tree with all sorts of baubles, tinsel and ornaments passed down through three generations. One of my favourite parts is the Christmas chime set up in the corner. It’s a small contraption with candles, bells and angels. As the candles burn, the angels spin around and ring the bells. It contributes perfectly to the merry atmosphere. After the tree is ready, we spend the evening eating and often watching Christmas movies such as ‘It’s a Wonderful Life.’ Finally, before bed, we each open one of the gifts beneath the tree. This only adds to the excitement of the following morning, as we feel each wrapper and attempt to guess the best one.”

“Funnily enough, Christmas Day is probably the least favourite day of the year for my dogs, who hate all the hustle and bustle. They do join in though, and always receive a few presents of bones or toys. All in all it’s a great holiday for everyone.”

Meet Coco Chanel, my aunt’s dog
Sub Editor Mr. John Pooley shares his opinion on Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows:

For the most successful film series in history, it’s almost time to close the curtains. After enchanting viewers around the world, and generating $6bn in revenues, the big screen adaptation of J.K. Rowling’s wizarding saga has taken its rightful place alongside Indiana Jones, Star Wars and James Bond, on the shimmering stage of successful film franchises.

After Rowling announced in November that this was her ‘favourite so far’, I was keen to see for myself how ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part I’ would turn out.

The familiar castle walls of Hogwarts are conspicuously absent from the latest film in the series, as are many of the elements we have grown accustomed to over the years. As it winds down towards conclusion, the journey takes a somewhat darker tone as we depart with Harry on part I of his quest to finally destroy Voldemort.

With obstacles at every perilous step, discovering the dark wizard’s secret to immortality is only the beginning. After the collapse of the ministry of magic, Harry, Ron and Hermione must venture out into the unknown and destroy the remaining horcruxes before it’s too late.

Whilst only 7 years have elapsed in Potter-time, it has taken 9 years for the films to reach the current point in the series and the major characters are noticeably more mature. Long segments in the wild challenge the young actors to hold the screen themselves, without assistance from the colourful range of characters which the film has boasted previously.

Emma Watson in particular demonstrates the range of her talents much more this time around, as does Grint, in what is certainly the most emotionally charged portion of the series for his character. Helena Bonham-Carter, unfortunately, once again seems profoundly underutilized, as she reprises her role as the maniacal Bellatrix Lestrange.

This film tends to take less creative departures from the novel, which is warmly welcomed by those who felt earlier films were guilty of cutting short important sequences. Special effects wise, this film is a continuation of the fantastic work carried out in the previous films, and it is very much evident that it was initially shot for 3D.

The final installment is tipped for a July 2011 release and I, for one, cannot wait.