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28th June

Dear All

Please find below the update 24 from HOPE.

## **News from HOPE**

1. The current tentative statistics (by 24 June 2020) show that about 70% of our students' study plan overseas remains unchanged, while the rest 30% either still pending or being deferred due to the pandemic. However the figures are constantly changing, and we will update you regularly in the coming months.
2. My colleague Judy Zhu, Chief Counsellor, and Alex Wen, Director for Project and Training, will attend the BBSN Virtual Networking Event from 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> July; Alice Zhang, International Partnership Manager, is to attend St. Alphito China Online Mini Conference on 16<sup>th</sup> July. They all look forward to speaking to you to update you the market in China and what we are planning at HOPE in the new academic year, if you are attending the events as well. Otherwise, you are also welcome to email us to make appointment with us for either a wechat or zoom meeting to discuss how we can work together in the new academic year.
3. HOPE is to celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year. We are inviting your institutions to make a short 2-3 mins. video to mark this milestone of HOPE and our long-lasting partnership. If you have not yet received the invitation letter, please email Alice Zhang, [a.zhang@hope-studyabroad.com](mailto:a.zhang@hope-studyabroad.com). We look forward to sharing both the prospects in the future as well as good memories in the past 20 years with you.

Kind regards

*Daniel Zheng*

Daniel Zheng  
Managing Director  
HOPE Study Abroad Service/HOPE International Education

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# Culture Insider: Dragon Boat Festival

chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-06-25 10:00 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)

The 5th day of the 5th month of the lunar year is an important day for the Chinese people. The day is called Duan Wu Festival, or Dragon Boat Festival, celebrated everywhere in China. This festival dates back to about 2,000 years ago with a number of legends explaining its origin. The best-known story centers on a great patriotic poet named Qu Yuan.

## Qu Yuan and Dragon Boat Festival

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In the Warring States Period (475-221BC), the State of Qin in the west was bent on annexing the other states, including the state of Chu, home of Qu Yuan. Holding the second highest office in the state, Qu Yuan urged that the Chu State should resist Qin and ally with the State of Qi to the east. This was opposed by Zhangyi, a minister of the State of Qin who was trying to disrupt any anti-Qin alliances. He seized upon an incident with a jealous court official in Chu to get rid of Qu Yuan.

Qu Yuan had refused to let Jin Shang, the chief minister in the State of Chu, have a look at a draft of a decree he had been asked to draw up. In anger Jin spread the rumor that Qu Yuan was leaking state secrets. He said that Qu Yuan had boasted that without his aid no decree could be drafted. This made the King of Chu feel that Qu Yuan was belittling him.

When the story reached the ears of Zhang Yi in Qin, he secretly sent a large amount of gold, silver and jewels to Chu to bribe Jin Shang and the king's favorite concubine to form an anti-Qu Yuan clique. The result was that the King of Chu finally banished Qu Yuan from the capital in 313 BC.

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The next year, as relations between Qin and Chu worsened, Qu Yuan was called back and named to a high office, but the clique continued its machinations against him.

In 299 BC after several unsuccessful forays against Chu, Qin invited the King of Chu over, ostensibly for talks. Qu Yuan feared this was a trap and urged his king not to go. The latter would not listen and even accused Qu Yuan for interfering.

On the way, the King of Chu was seized by Qin troops. He died in captivity three years later. Chu came under the rule of the king's eldest son, later known as King Qing Xiang. Under him the state administration deteriorated.

Qu Yuan hoped to institute reforms and in poems satirized the corruption, selfishness and disregard for the people on the part of dubious characters who had achieved trusted positions. Neither this nor Qu Yuan's resolve to resist Qin set well with King Qing Xiang, who was in fact married to a daughter of the King of Qin. In 296 BC, Qu Yuan, then in his mid 50s, was banished for the second time. Grieving for the condition of his homeland, for years he wandered about south of the Yangtze River.

During this period he poured out his feelings of grief and concern for his homeland in the allegorical *Li Sao*, a long autobiographical poem in which he tells of his political ideal and the corruption and mismanagement of the court.

In 280 BC Qin launched an overall invasion of Chu, and captured the Chu capital in 278 BC. The news reached Qu Yuan while he was near the Miluo River in today's northeastern Hunan Province. In frustration at being unable to do anything to save his state, he clasped a big stone to his breast and leaped into the river to end his life.

Qu Yuan's sufferings had gained the sympathy of the people of Chu. In memory of him, every year on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, the day he drowned himself, dragon boat races, which are said to represent the search for his body, are held, and the Chinese people eat Zong Zi, little packets of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo leaves, which was originally thrown into the river to keep the fishes from eating the body of Qu Yuan. In addition, it is said that when hearing the news of Qu Yuan's suicide, some doctors poured realgar wine into the Miluo River to anaesthetize the fishes, hence preventing them from eating Qu Yuan's body.

### Customs of the festival

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The customs vary a lot in different areas of the country, but most of the families would hang the picture of Zhong Kui (a ghost that can exorcise), calamus and moxa in their houses. People have Dragon Boat Races, eat *zongzi* (dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves) and carry a spice bag around with them.



[Photo/IC]

### **Dragon boat racing**

At the center of the festival are the dragon boat races. Competing teams drive their colorful dragon boats forward to the rhythm of the beating drums. These exciting races were inspired by the villagers' valiant attempts to rescue Qu Yuan from the Miluo River. This tradition has remained unbroken for centuries.

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### Eating *zongzi*

Most Chinese festivals are tied to a particular food, and the Dragon Boat Festival is no exception.

A very popular dish during the Dragon Boat Festival is *zongzi*. This tasty dish consists of rice dumplings with meat, peanuts, egg yolks or other fillings wrapped in reed leaves. The tradition of *zongzi* is meant to remind us of village fishermen scattering rice across the water of the Miluo River in order to appease the river dragons and fish so that they would not devour Qu Yuan.

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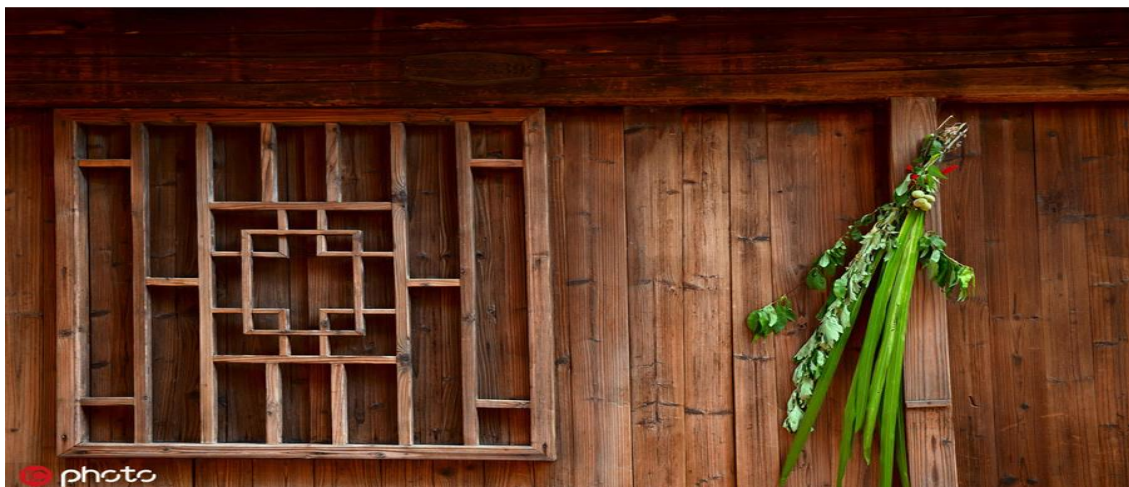
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### Balancing eggs

It is said that you will be lucky in the coming year if you can balance an egg upright during the Dragon Boat Festival. The egg balancing competition will be held at noon in many places.



### Hanging auspicious leaves

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The fifth lunar month is marked as a "poisonous" month in the Chinese farmer's calendar. This is because insects and pests are active during this summer month and people are more prone to catch infectious diseases.

During the Dragon Boat Festival, Chinese put mugwort leaves and calamus on the doors or windows to repel insects, flies, fleas and moths from the house. Those leaves have curative properties and can prevent an epidemic



### **Wearing scented sachets**

On the Dragon Boat Festival, children normally wear scented sachets threaded with five-color silk string to ward off evil. A scented sachet is an ornament worn on the front of the dress. The sweet-smelling sachet contains cinnabar, realgar and aromatic herbs.

It is usually wrapped in a silk cloth and sometimes embroidered with exquisite patterns. Multicolor silk threads are attached to the sachet as decorative tassels. In some areas of China, a scented sachet is also used as a token between young lovers

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### Hang an image of Zhong Kui

Zhong Kui is a famous exorcist. His picture, a fierce-looking male brandishing a magic sword, is hung in Chinese houses in order to scare away evil spirits and demons, especially during the Dragon Boat Festival.



### Tying five-color silk string

According to folklore, tying five-color silk string around wrists, ankles and the neck protects children from evil. Five-color string holds a special significance in China,

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as it is thought to contain magical and healing properties. Children are not permitted to speak while their parents tie the five-color string for them, nor are they allowed to remove it until the specified time. Only after the first summer rainfall can the children throw the string into the river. This is thought to protect children from the plague and other diseases.



### **Driving away the five poisonous pests**

According to Chinese custom, the "double fifth" is the hottest day of the month, when all the poisonous vapors are in the air, so every attempt is made to harmonize yin and yang so that danger and disease can be avoided.

It is believed that five kinds of poisonous pests would harm children's health, including a snake, centipede, scorpion, lizard, toad and sometimes spider. People will cut colorful silk into patterns of these five pests or paint them on red paper, and then paste the silk or red paper on the doors or walls of the bedroom, each impaled by a needle.

The five pests are also often embroidered on clothing, stamped on cakes, engraved on accessories and used for decorations. They are believed to have the power to drive away all pests and pestilence.

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# Registration opens for third CIIE professional visitors

[chinadaily.com.cn](http://chinadaily.com.cn) | Updated: 2020-06-27 21:46 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



The

business exhibition area for the CIIE in Shanghai. [Photo/ciie.org]

Professional visitors can now sign up for the third edition of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) slated to take place at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) from Nov 5 to 10.

Starting from June 24, professional visitors from home and abroad can log into the CIIE website, which provides both Chinese and English language services, to register.

The third CIIE has optimized its registration services in order to attract more professional visitors, including creating an invitation code-free channel, strengthening personal information protection and facilitating payment and invoice-making procedures.

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The business exhibition area for the third CIIE, which is expected to span 360,000 square meters, will be divided into six sections displaying food and agricultural products, automobiles, intelligent industry and information technology, consumer goods, medical equipment and healthcare products, as well as trade in services.

Four special subsections dedicated to public health and anti-epidemic products and services, smart transportation, energy conservation and sporting goods will be set up during the event.

## China's industrial profits down 19.3% in first five months

Xinhua | Updated: 2020-06-28 10:20 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



Workers assemble an industrial turbine at a factory in the Haizhou Economic Development Zone in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, in May.

BEIJING -- Profits of China's major industrial firms dropped 19.3 percent year-on-year in the first five months of 2020 due to the COVID-19 impact, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed Sunday

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# Tourist numbers up as city celebrates Dragon Boat Festival

2020-06-27



A visitor takes a photo at the Shanghai Botanical Garden.

Shanghai welcomed 3.73 million tourists during the three-day Dragon Boat Festival holiday, with cultural and tourism income reaching 5.8 billion yuan (US\$819 million).

A total of 150 major tourist attractions in Shanghai recorded 1.29 million visits during the holiday, 46 percent of visitor numbers compared with the same period last year, the Shanghai Administration of Culture and Tourism announced on Saturday.

The Oriental Pearl TV Tower welcomed 11,300 visitors, or 30.5 percent of last year's figure, and the Shanghai Wild Animal Park had 23,000 visitors, or 33.3 percent of last year's number.

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The Shanghai Science and Technology Museum received 16,200 visitors, 28.4 percent of last year's number, and the number of visitors was 15,700 for Zhujiajiao watertown, or 15.6 percent, according to the administration.

The Chenshan Botanical Garden had 8,700 visitors, or 46.5 percent of last year's number.

The Bund, Yuyuan Garden and Lujiazui areas had 334,500, 71,600 and 320,100 visitors respectively, 47.4 percent, 39.4 percent and 43.8 percent of last year's figures.

The Shanghai International Resort welcomed 206,000 visits, or 74.4 percent of last year's number.

A-level scenic spots in Shanghai implemented mandatory reservation policies during the holiday. Cultural and tourism authorities closely monitored real-time figures at cultural venues and tourist attractions to ensure safety.

Hotels in the city implemented body temperature measurement, information registration and check of health QR codes for guests. Internet cafes required customers to make real-name registrations and reservations and practice social distancing.

Venues are subject to strict disinfection.

The city's 42 art galleries welcomed 23,800 visits during the holiday, or 22 percent of last year's figure, while 103 museums had 78,600, or 28 percent, according to the administration.

"Cloud activities" hosted by cultural and tourism venues in the city during the holiday recorded 2.15 million viewings.

Source: SHINE Editor: Cai Wenjun