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18th April

Please find below the update 17 from HOPE.

News from HOPE

- 1) Two online demo classes on IELTS speaking and A level economics on Thursday were warmly welcomed by students and parents with attendance reaching 70 per class. Good for providers to showcase their teaching quality and academic excellence. More A level and IB, demo classes will be staged next week. If any school is interested in providing online demo classes, particularly on A level **Psychology, Biology, English Literature, Arts and history**, please contact Alice Zhang, at event@hope-studyabroad.com. The next round of demo classes will be from **19th May**.
- 2) We plan to organize two **pre pre-departure briefings in early-mid June**. One is aimed at parents and their young kids who are going to study in schools overseas this autumn; Only schools will be invited for this briefing; Second one is aimed at students who are going to study UG/Foundation and PG programme at overseas universities. Only universities will be invited. Participating institutions are supposed to provide updates on Covid-19 and the relevant policies regarding the start date (or possible date) of the new academic year, summer arrangement for students, graduation arrangement for current students, visa application/extension, and clearing etc.. Please let us know asap if you are interested. We will confirm the date and time near the time.
- 3) With increasing demand for professional teaching certificate from our students, current teachers in international schools in China, HOPE plans to work closely with our partner universities that provide **PGCE/IPGCE** programme online or offline. Please contact me at d.zheng@hope-studyabroad.com to arrange a time for a more detailed chat if you are interested.

Kind regards

Daniel Zheng

Daniel Zheng
Managing Director
HOPE Study Abroad Service
HOPE International Education

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News on local media

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Wuhan finds 182 asymptomatic cases after testing over 270,000

By Zhao Xinying | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-04-18 14:01



A worker in a protective suit collects a swab from a construction worker for nucleic acid test in Wuhan, Hubei province, on April 7, 2020. [Photo/Agencies]

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The city of Wuhan has recently conducted more than 270,000 nucleic acid tests, among which 182 were found to be cases carrying the novel coronavirus but showing no symptoms, a local newspaper reported.

Wuhan, the capital city of China's hardest-hit Hubei province, tested a total of 275,400 people from April 8 to April 15, finding that 182 were asymptomatic, equivalent to 6.6 asymptomatic cases for per 10,000 people, according to Changjiang Daily.

The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said the tests were conducted mainly among people who will soon resume work in Wuhan or who will leave Wuhan to work in other cities in China.

"At present, Wuhan has a total of 53 nucleic acid testing institutions and 211 venues for sample collection. With a daily capacity of 40,000 tests, the demand from Wuhan residents who are willing to be tested will be well met," a staff member of the Wuhan health commission was quoted as saying.

The commission requested that asymptomatic cases should be tested and reported in a timely manner, and investigations to trace sources should be finished within 24 hours.

According to regulations from the State Council, China's cabinet, asymptomatic cases will be quarantined for 14 days for medical observation and those who develop symptoms during this period of time will be treated as confirmed infections.

Only those who don't show any symptoms in the 14 days and get negative results in two nucleic acid tests will be discharged from observation.

Shanghai implements policies to boost business, foreign investment

Updated: Apr 13, 2020 By Shi Jing in Shanghai chinadaily.com.cn[Print](#)

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A total of 24 new policies took effect on Friday in Shanghai in a bid to further improve the city's business environment. [Photo/Sipa]

A total of 24 new policies took effect on Friday in Shanghai in a bid to further improve the city's business environment and solicit more foreign investors.

The measures have been introduced to implement the country's deepened opening-up policies, step up investment promotion, make business opportunities more accessible to foreign investors and protect their legal rights, said the municipal government.

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Specifically, the city will support foreign investors to enter industries emphasized in the country's new round of opening-up. Finance and new energy vehicles are likely to be the sectors seeing the first breakthroughs.

More efforts will be made to further open up the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, especially the newly included Lingang Special Area. Telecommunications, science and technology services, education and healthcare will be the industries in the limelight for further opening-up.

Easier cross-border capital flow is also included in the recently unveiled policies so that foreign companies can expand their business operations in China with funds raised overseas.

Meanwhile, Shanghai will perfect the mechanism for foreign investors to file complaints and protect their legal rights. Heavier penalties will be imposed on those who have significantly infringed on foreign companies' intellectual property rights.



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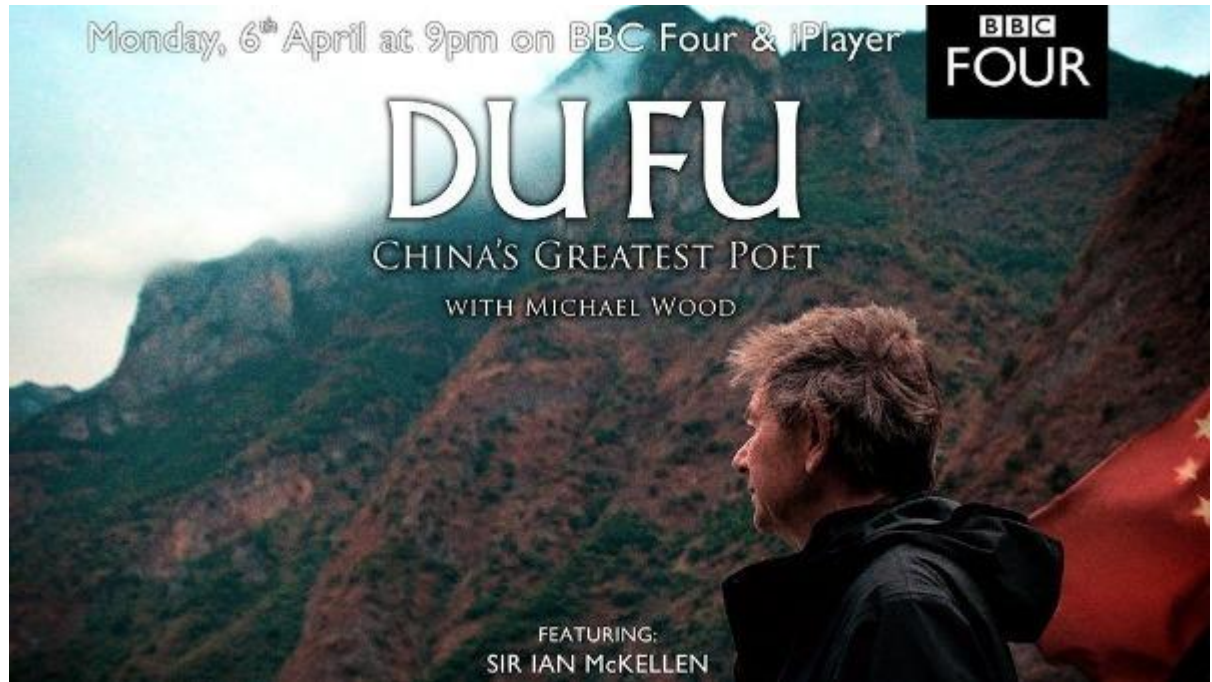
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BBC documentary spotlights China's Shakespeare

By Yang Xiaoyu | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2020-04-17 12:50 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)



The poster for the BBC documentary *Du Fu, China's Greatest Poet*. [Photo/BBC] "We have Dante, Shakespeare and Du Fu (712-770). These poets create the very values by which poetry is judged," remarked Harvard professor Stephen Owen in *Du Fu, China's Greatest Poet*, a recent BBC documentary.

Despite the fact that Du Fu is usually mentioned in the same breath as Virgil, Dante and Shakespeare by Sinologists around the world, the Chinese poet-sage, also an immortal in the East Asian cultural sphere, has still remained largely unknown in the Western world.

However, with the screening of *Du Fu, China's Greatest Poet*, the first English-language documentary feature about the poet, the days of Du Fu as China's best-kept literary secret seem to be just numbered.

Inspired by the 1952 eponymous book by William Hung, the one-hour film features the elegant, meditative recital of Du Fu's masterpieces by veteran British actor Ian McKellen, whose performance of Shakespeare's works has already held the world spellbound.

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Documentary presenter Michael Wood poses for a picture with a young tourist to the Du Fu Thatched Cottage in Chengdu, Southwest China's province. [Photo/BBC]
It is written and presented by Michael Wood, an accomplished television historian who also helmed other China-related docuseries such as *The Story of China* (2016) and *The Story of China's Reform and Opening Up* (2018).

From the Yellow River to the Yangtze Gorges, and down to the forested hills of Hunan province, Wood embarked on a pilgrimage to a number of places such as the poet's birthplace Gongyi in Henan province, the Tang Dynasty (618-907) capital Chang'an, today's Xi'an, and the Du Fu Thatched Cottage in Southwest China's Chengdu city.

Along the way, he met and talked to ordinary people, dancers and musicians, who helped to tell the enchanting story of the poet whose writings have resonated through the centuries, giving voice to the pain of common folks caught up in war, corruption, famine and natural disasters.

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The BBC documentary *Du Fu, China's Greatest Poet* features Sir Ian McKellen who gives elegant, meditative readings of Du Fu's masterpieces. [Photo/BBC]

Born in 712, the age of Beowulf in Britain, Du Fu lived under the reign of the Tang Emperor Xuanzong (713-756), a time marked by extraordinary prosperity, inclusiveness and cultural accomplishment.

However, as the An Lushan Rebellion of 755 floored the empire, Du Fu, the former civil servant at the Tang court, was forced to become a porter under the rebel rule. Then he escaped, took his family on the road as refugees, and endured starvation and suffering. Through ups and downs, the poet never ceased writing, pouring out his concern for his country and people as well as celebrating the simple joys of life.

Wood's journey on the ground and Sir Ian McKellen's readings also mesh with meaty interviews with noted scholars specializing in Chinese literature, to help present a clearer picture of the poet's life experiences, literary significance and his friendship with Li Bai, who has rivaled Du Fu for the title of China's greatest poet.

"Chinese people really value the recording of history and Du Fu is better than anyone at reflecting history in his poetry. That's because historical events are mirrored in his own life and spiritual journey," noted Zeng Xiangbo, a professor of

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ancient Chinese literature at Renmin University of China, who translated William Hung's work.



screenshot from the official website of BBC Four, featuring the documentary *Du Fu, China's Greatest Poet*. [Photo/BBC]

Du's poetry reflects the experience and transforms it, so it becomes a part of the emotional vocabulary of the Chinese culture, said American Sinologist Stephen Owen, who in 2016 completed the eight-year-long project to translate Du Fu's 1,400 poems into English.

Owen's six-volume book marks the first time that one of the world's most prolific poets' existing collection has been translated into English, which is expected to make Du's work more accessible to a broader readership.

Aside from Owen's translation, McKellen's readings in the film also feature translations by William Hung, Albert Davis, author of *Tu Fu* (1971), and Burton Watson, author of *The Selected Poems of Du Fu* (2003).

Below are three of Du Fu's poems translated by Owen. In the first piece, Du sings of his bohemian and charismatic friend Li Bai; in the second, he expresses his love for Taishan Mountain as well as his lofty aspirations; and in the third, he grieves for the war-torn state and is concerned about his family from afar.

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Song of Eight Drinking Immortals

Li Bai makes a hundred poems out of one quart of ale,
in the marketplace of Chang'an he sleeps in the tavern.

The Son of Heaven called him to come,
he wouldn't get on the boat,

he himself declared: "Your subject is an immortal in his ale."

Gazing on the Peak

And what then is Daizong like?

over Qi and Lu, green unending.

Creation compacted spirit splendors here,

Dark and Light, riving dusk and dawn.

Exhilarating the breast, it produces layers of cloud;

splitting eye-pupils, it has homing birds entering.

Someday may I climb up to its highest summit,

with one sweeping view see how small all other mountains are.

View in Spring

The state broken, its mountains and rivers remain,

the city turns spring, deep with plants and trees.

Stirred by the time, flowers, sprinkling tears,

hating parting, birds, alarm the heart.

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Beacon fires stretch through three months,
a letter from family worth ten thousand in silver.
I've scratched my white hair even shorter,
pretty much to the point where it won't hold a hatpin.

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