

# CHINA DAILY

CHINA'S NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

US Edition / 美国版

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The country's premier rock musician tries his hand at experimental filmmaking

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VOL. 29 No. 9197

MONDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2009

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## China welcomes Obama, hopes for change, too

### US leader takes new approach, but old disagreements loom large

By Cai Hong

Claiming to bring the "change" the United States needs, US President Barack Obama has been striving to be different since he took office in January. He has accomplished a plethora of firsts and will get one more: Obama will be the first US president to visit China within his first year in the Oval Office.

Different from many of his predecessors, who chose to speak at Chinese universities

during their visits, Obama is scheduled to have a dialogue with Chinese youth in Shanghai — speaking to them, taking questions and hearing directly from them.

On top of formal talks with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing, he will do some sightseeing at the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

The trip will offer Obama firsthand insight into China.

When Hu and his US counterpart met on the margins of the London G20 meeting in April,

they pledged to work together to build a positive, cooperative and comprehensive relationship for the 21st century.

During a short talk with Chinese and American college students recently, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the Sino-US relationship of the 21st century should be anchored on the "common interest of mankind and common interest of China and the US".

Without cooperation between China and the United States in conjunction with other countries, it will be difficult for the world to deal with such enormous issues as energy, food security, climate change and the international financial crisis, Yang said.

Subsequent meetings, including the ones in New York and during Obama's visit to China, underscore the two countries' determination to sustain momentum.

By sending high-ranking officials to each other's countries the two nations have taken specific steps to address and allay each other's concerns.

At the first round of the China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Washington in July, the two countries pledged to intensify bilateral ties and expand cooperation on major international issues and shared global challenges.

Chinese and American commerce officials signed important agreements on business

and trade when meeting in Hangzhou for the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade in October.

And the two countries have restarted high-level military-to-military dialogue, a barometer of the China-US relations. Xu Caihou, vice-chairman of China's Central Military Commission, and US Defense Secretary Robert Gates agreed to "seven points of consensus" on Sino-US military cooperation and exchanges, which deal with both practical and strategic concerns.

Those concerns include high-level mutual visits and exchanges of military officials, more cooperation on humanitarian aid, broader communication on land

forces and maritime security, and junior officer exchanges. Another agreement calls for a joint air-sea search and rescue exercise.

Ding Xinghao, president of Shanghai Association of American Studies, maintained that a crisis management mechanism is taking shape.

The exchange of visits between the Chinese and American commercial and military officials helped lay the foundation for Obama's China trip.

In its first eight months, the Obama administration has built on the efforts of its predecessors and kept bilateral relations on track.

"I want to stress the im-

portance of continuity in the US-China relationship, which has brought us to this very important stage today," US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg said in Washington in September during a briefing on the Obama administration's vision for bilateral relations.

"We are ready to accept a growing role for China on the international stage, and in many areas, we have already embraced it," the US official said.

Acceptance of the critical importance of bilateral ties, however, does not necessarily mean that distrust and disagreement have disappeared.

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Chinese President Hu Jintao and his wife, Liu Yongqing (center), examine artwork during a visit to the Nanyang Girls' High School in Singapore on Friday, on the sidelines of The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. AFP

## Hu warns against protectionism

By Zhao Huanxin

SINGAPORE: Boosting domestic demand and opposing trade protectionism are the two keys to bolstering the fledgling global recovery, China's President Hu Jintao said on Friday at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit.

"The world economy has shown positive signs of stabilization and recovery," he said.

But he cautioned that the economic upturn is not firmly established, present patterns of global growth are unsustainable and major deficiencies still exist in the international financial system.

"Our focus in countering the crisis is to expand domestic demand, especially consumer demand," Hu said.

In the face of the crisis, China has adjusted its macroeconomic policies. It introduced a moderately loose monetary policy and a stimulus package.

China's measures have resulted in swift economic growth

in the country and helped "the international effort to cushion the impact of the financial crisis and restore world economic growth", the president said.

"We have been working hard to improve the consumption environment, adjust distribution relations, increase people's ability to spend and foster new areas of high consumer demand," he said.

One of China's top priorities is to continuously improve its citizens' well-being by addressing issues such as medical care, housing and old-age support, which presently constrain domestic consumption.

However, Hu said the international financial crisis has fueled trade and investment protectionism, and developing countries, in particular, are victimized by a mounting number of unreasonable trade and investment restrictions.

China is one of the biggest victims of protectionist measures, the country's Vice-Minister of Commerce, Yi Xiaozhun, said on Friday.

In the first nine months of this year, 19 economies launched 88 probes into Chinese products, involving \$10.2 billion of export goods. The United States alone carried out 14 probes, according to sources at the Ministry of Commerce.

"Protectionism will not help any country move out of the crisis," said Hu.

The president said the current slowly improving global economy is no reason not to reform the international financial system.

"We should continue to increase the representation and voice of developing countries in international financial institutions, speedily implement the quantitative reform targets set at the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh and improve the decision-making processes and mechanisms in these institutions," he said.

Hu also said regional economic integration in Asia is an important step in making the area stronger and will help drive the global economy.

## Online vote for panda's name draws thousands of fans

By Susan Mittleman

Until now, he's been called everything from "the cub" to "Heartbreaker", "furry ball of fluff" to "rolly-polly" and "chubster". But at 11 am Tuesday Pacific Standard Time, the San Diego Zoo's nearly 15-week-old giant panda cub will be bestowed with a proper name.

The zoo has been following the Chinese tradition of waiting 100 days before naming a child. But how it has chosen that name is an all-American tradition.

Just as each panda cub is unique, so has been each naming process by the zoo.

Hua Mei was born in 1999. Because she was the first giant panda to be born in the United States and survive, she was considered very special. So she was named by China, and her name literally means "China USA."

Next, in 2003, came Mei Sheng, who was named by the zoo's panda team. His name means "born in the USA".

Su Lin was born two years later. "The

panda team actually picked five names they liked, and then had them approved through China," explained zoo spokesperson Yadira Galindo. "Then the zoo had an online vote for a favorite."

Her name translates to "A little bit of something very cute."

Since the giant pandas had been gaining so much notoriety, when the fourth cub was born in 2007, the zoo decided to involve the community. They asked people to come to the zoo and suggest names, requesting they be in Chinese and have a special meaning.

After approval from Chinese officials, she was officially dubbed Zhen Zhen, aka, "Precious".

On Aug 5, 2009, Bai Yun gave birth to her fifth cub at the zoo, (the fourth fathered by her current male companion, Gao Gao). Ever since the news of the birth, millions of panda fans from all over the world have been following the cub's progress 24 hours a day, on live panda cams, via the Internet.

"Before the birth we had about 8,000 to

10,000 page views a day," said Galindo. "After the birth, we've been averaging about 37,000 page views a day."

Acknowledging the pandas' popularity and recognizing the power of the Internet, this time the zoo decided to name the little guy by asking visitors to submit names, following the same guidelines except, said Galindo. "We also accepted them (names) online, so people outside of San Diego could (also) participate."

Over 10 days in October, zoo officials received more than 6,300 suggestions, about half from zoo visitors and the rest from online fans. Those were narrowed down to five names they thought would best fit the panda and the community's taste.

After approval from Chinese authorities, it came down these: Fú Shèng (福圣): Blissful San Diego; Xiǎo Lóng (小龙): Little Dragon; Xióng Wēi (熊伟): Extraordinary Bear; Yǒng Xǎng (永祥): Eternally Blessed; and Yún Zǐ (云子): Son of Cloud. (Mother Bai Yun's name translates to "White Cloud".)

After four days of online voting through Nov 3 the zoo had received 17,526 suggestions. Two days after the voting ended, the zoo held an hourlong online interactive baby shower.

"It was an opportunity for fans to ask keepers questions and get some fun facts about the pandas," said Galindo.

All this attention falls on a cub who hasn't really done much of anything yet. For the first few months, Bai Yun and her cub will stay mainly together in a private den, only accessible to the public through the panda-cam. Zookeepers perform a weekly exam on the cub.

All giant pandas in the United States are on loan from China for research purposes. In 2010 Su Lin will return to China, as she is of age to participate in the giant panda breeding program.

The San Diego Zoo will post the formal name of the newest cub on its website after the announcement Tuesday. Log on to sandiegozoo.org/pandacam for the verdict.



The unnamed cub gets a veterinary exam with keeper Heidi Trowbridge on Oct 20. Ken Bohn, San Diego Zoo

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### A serious spin

Table tennis is big in China, but is also growing in popularity in the US. In recent years, the number of established table tennis clubs and organized ping-pong competitions in the US has increased, as have purchases of ping-pong tables for both personal and commercial use.

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### Cross-cultural marriages

Distinctly different ways of life help build a better union, says a cross-cultural family living in a two-story detached villa with a flower garden in Beijing's suburban Shunyi district. Page 8

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Despite potential, microfinance still faces challenges in China.

Chinese demand for micro loans outstrips supply, but regulations prevent international investors from making up the shortfall. Page 11

### Big stretch

As fashion and health awareness expands in China, people's desire to stay slim and trim also is growing. China has become the world's largest commercial fitness and leisure market with more than

400 million potential consumers aged 18 to 50. Page 12

### Spending up

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中國日報

CHINA DAILY (ISSN 0748-6154) is published daily except weekends and Chinese New Year by China Daily Distribution Corporation, 25 West 43rd Street, Suite 1208, New York, NY 10036. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CHINA DAILY, 25 West 43rd Street, Suite 1208, New York, NY 10036.

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