

Australia China Friendship Society
ACT Branch Inc



澳中友好协会

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Bulletin

2021/9–10 September–October 2021

Coming events



Committee

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Promoting friendship and understanding between the Australian and Chinese people

Note from the President

Life under the COVID lockdown is proving to be a challenge for many of us but the end is in sight and there is a small relaxation of restrictions starting on Friday the 1st of October.

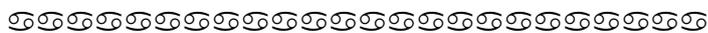
Unfortunately all our planned activities are either cancelled or facing a long deferral. Ceremonies for both the awards for mandarin students and the Panda Competition cannot be held. The awards for mandarin students will be delivered to each school progressively after 15 October. The deadline for the Panda competition has been extended to the 14th of November, a week after all students will be back at school. We will then have to judge the entries, allocate prizes and again deliver them to each school. It is very disappointing for the students, parents and teachers as a visit to the Embassy is a significant event for all. The annual concert by the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble has been deferred with a possibility of it happening earlier next year. Our Queanbeyan Chinese Heritage Walk has also been postponed until sometime next year. I am hoping that we will be able to have a gathering before Christmas but it will all depend on what restrictions are in place. We have an approved permit for the Lantern Festival early next year and we may be lucky enough again (as we were this year) to be the first large outdoor gathering for 2022.

Until we can all meet up again keep safe and well.

Carol Keil



Welcome to new member Dr. Myriam Amar.



ANU Centre on China in the World

Events



CHL Chinese Language Program—Chinese Cultural Salon
11am – 12pm, 1 Oct. AEDT ([online](#))

This talk will explore Chinese folklore religions (**Quinn Larnarh-Jones**) and a Chinese calligraphy (**Yu Sang**).

Fast facts from the *Beijing Review*, September 2021

- Smart device maker Xiaomi has overtaken Apple as the top-shipping wearable band vendor in the second quarter. Xiaomi took the lead with shipments of 8 million units, 20% of the market. Apple shipped 7.9 million units. Huawei was third with 3.7 million units shipped. In the same quarter the global market was 40.9 million units up 5.5% from a year ago.
- Chinese Central Government Bonds held by foreign investors surpassed 2.2 trillion yuan by the end of August, up 17.3 billion in a month.
- Starting this semester, Chinese school students will have less homework and their parents will no longer need to correct it. Also the number of after school tutoring institutions is reducing. This is a consequence of national guidelines to ease the burden of excessive homework and off campus tutoring. The tutoring system was being blamed for producing social anxiety and mental health problems in the name of creating a better future for children.

Thanks to Neil Birch for compiling these.



Greening the Belt & Road: Taking the Green Investment Principles Seriously

4 – 5:30pm, 7 Oct. AEDT (online)

Wenting Cheng discusses the role of the green investment principles in building China's green BRI and its relevant regulatory challenges.



Are China and Russia in a defacto alliance?

12:30 – 1:30pm, 12 Oct. AEST (online)

Emeritus Professor Paul Dibb proposes that such a grand coalition of China and Russia is now fast becoming a geopolitical fact in an era of their growing tensions with America.



The Green Steel Opportunity for Australia-China Trade

8 – 9pm, 26 Oct. AEDT (online)

Frank Jotzo, Mousami Prasad and John Pye discuss how hydrogen could become a more sustainable solution for steel production and a low carbon opportunity for Australia-China trade.



Travel surge tipped for weeklong holiday

By CHENG SI | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2021-09-30 09:03

The flourishing tourism market during last week's Mid-Autumn Festival holiday points to a likely surge in travel during the weeklong National Day holiday beginning on Friday, industry insiders said.

Bookings for airline tickets, hotels and tour packages for the seven-day break have been rising as the holiday has gotten closer. Travel portal Fliggy said reservations for airline tickets, hotels and long-distance tours have all doubled in the past week.

Beijing is topping travellers' wish lists for the break thanks to the opening of Universal Beijing Resort, Fliggy said, with other popular attractions in the capital including the Summer Palace and the Great Wall. It said that bookings on its platform for airline tickets to Lhasa, Tibet autonomous region, Sanya, Hainan province, and Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui autonomous region, have seen average rises of 80 percent.

Figures given by Lvmama, another travel agency, highlight the popularity of Universal Beijing Resort. It said that in the past week, bookings for airline tickets bound for Beijing on its platform have risen continuously and reservations for hotels in the city have increased by 330 percent. Zou Qingling, CEO of Lvmama, said that prices for trips during the holiday have fallen slightly. Giving Sanya, a popular



A train operates in a sea of ornamental pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) in Changshun county of Guizhou province. [Photo/chinadaily.com.cn]

seaside destination, as an example, she said tour prices were down by 5 percent to 20 percent compared with 2019. "It's quite economical," she said. "Allowing for concerns about sporadic COVID-19 outbreaks, travellers prefer self-driving tours with their family members and smaller group tours."

Travel agencies said trips will begin to surge from Thursday and peak on Friday, the first day of the holiday.

Tuniu, another online travel agency, said that over 70 percent of its users will spend at least three days traveling and sightseeing over the holiday and around 20 percent of users have booked tour products for family trips. It said that people aged 26 to 35 make up the biggest group of holiday travellers making bookings on its platform. Women accounted for 57 percent of tour package bookings, it said.

Lian Yiming, a 34-year-old lawyer from Beijing, said he plans to take his wife and their 5-year-old daughter to his hometown of Dunhuang, Gansu province, during the holiday. "To avoid the travel peak, we plan to start the trip on Saturday and return to Beijing on Oct 9, two days after the holiday ends," he said.

"Gansu is very beautiful and I want to show my little daughter the marvellous landscape there. We get few long breaks like the National Day holiday, so it's quite a chance to take them to travel and visit my parents there."



24 Solar Terms: 8 things you may not know about Autumn Equinox *(China Daily) 2021-09-23*

Autumn Equinox lies at the midpoint of autumn, dividing autumn into two equal parts. After that day, the location of direct sunlight moves to the south, making days shorter and nights longer in the northern hemisphere. The traditional Chinese lunar calendar divides the year into 24 solar terms. Autumn Equinox, (Chinese: 秋分), the 16th solar term of the year, begins this year on Sept 23 and ends on Oct 7.

Here are 8 things you should know about Autumn Equinox.



Cool autumn. As it is said in the ancient book, *The Detailed Records of the Spring and Autumn Period* (770-476BC), "It is on Autumn Equinox day that the Yin and Yang are in a balance of power. Thus the day and night are of equal length, and so are the cold and hot weather."

By Autumn Equinox, most of the areas in China have entered the cool autumn. When the cold air heading south meets the declining warm and wet air, precipitation is the result. The temperature also drops frequently.

Season for eating crab. In this season, crab is delicious. It helps nourish the marrow and clear heat inside the body.

Eating *Qiucai*. In South China, there is a custom popularly known as "having *Qiucai* (an autumn vegetable) on the Autumn Equinox day". *Qiucai* is a kind of wild amaranth. Every Autumn Equinox day, all the villagers go to pick *Qiucai* in the wild. *Qiucai* is verdant in the field, thin, and about 20 cm in length. *Qiucai* is taken back and made into soup with fish, called "*Qitang*" (autumn soup). There is a verse about the soup: "Drink the soup to clear the liver and intestines, thus the whole family will be safe and healthy".

Season for eating various plants. By Autumn Equinox, olives, pears, papayas, chestnuts, beans, and other plants enter their phase of maturation. It is time to pick and eat them.

Season for enjoying Osmanthus. The Autumn Equinox is the time to smell the fragrance of osmanthus. At this time, it is hot in the day and cool at night in South China, so people have to wear a single layer when it is hot, and lined clothing when it is cool. This period is named "*Guihuazheng*" in Chinese, which means "osmanthus mugginess".

Season for enjoying chrysanthemums. Autumn Equinox also is a good time to enjoy chrysanthemums in full bloom.

Standing eggs on end. On Autumn Equinox day, thousands of people around the world try to make eggs stand on end. This Chinese custom has become the world's game.

According to experts, on the Spring Equinox and Autumn Equinox, the day and night are of equal time both in the southern and northern hemispheres. The earth's axis, on its 66.5 degree tilt, is in a relative balance of power with the earth's orbit around the sun. Thus it is a very conducive time for standing eggs on end.

But some also say that standing the egg has nothing to do with the time. The most important thing is to shift the egg's center of gravity to the lowest part of the egg. In this way, the trick is holding the egg until the yolk sinks as much as possible. For this, you're better off choosing an egg that's about 4 or 5 days old, whose yolk is inclined to sink down.

Sacrificing to the moon. Originally, the festival of sacrificing to the moon was set on Autumnal Equinox day. According to historical records, as early as the Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-256BC), the ancient kings by custom sacrificed to the sun on the Spring Equinox, and to the moon on the Autumn Equinox.

But the moon won't be full during Autumn Equinox. If there was no moon to make sacrifices to, it would spoil the fun. Thus, the day was changed to the Mid-Autumn Day.



Study burden cut

Beijing Review Editorial, 2021-09-13, No.37 September 16, 2021

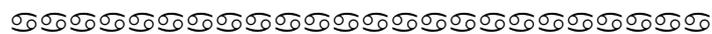
Primary and junior-high school students and their parents across the country have seen some changes since the new school year started on September 1. Students have less homework, and their parents no longer need to correct the homework of their children. At the same time, the number of after-school tutoring institutions for primary and junior-high school students is reducing. These changes are the consequence of national guidelines to ease the burden of excessive homework and off-campus tutoring for students during the nine years of compulsory education. Known as the "double reduction" policy, the guidelines were issued at the end of July, and took effect this semester.

The policy is an important step in China's boosting of more well-rounded educational practices. In addition to providing compulsory education, China is also working to develop an education system that enables young people to create a moral, intellectual, physical and mental grounding. China's education system had become increasingly exam-oriented in recent decades due to the desire of achieving

high scores in high school and the college entrance examinations. In addition, the extracurricular tutoring companies, most of which privately funded, were producing social anxiety in the name of creating a better future for children. Each of these factors contributed to an excessive burden on primary and junior-high school students, and made education a results-oriented tool serving short-term interests, endangering the entire education system and even the mental health of the future generations.

The policy of easing study burden aims to help education resume its essential purpose with schooling as the cornerstone of the system, social education as the supplement and family education as the foundation, so as to better educate high-calibre talents for the country. No new academic course tutoring institutions will be approved; existing ones must register as non-profit organizations and are banned from going public for financing or receiving investments from listed companies.

The policy may bring back well-rounded education; however, the motivation to receive and offer exam-oriented learning will persist as long as exam scores remain the standard for entry to high schools and colleges. There is still a long way to go for China to transit from exam-oriented to well-rounded education.



Restructuring social wealth distribution

By Lan Xinzhen, *Beijing Review* 2021-09-14, No.37 September 16, 2021

At the 10th meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs on August 17, President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, called for the promotion of common prosperity after China has built a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Common prosperity is part of the Party's people-centred national governance concept. In the 1980s, then leader Deng Xiaoping proposed to encourage certain regions and individuals to get rich first and then realize common prosperity by the rich giving the poor a helping hand. Nowadays, the catch is how to realize common prosperity, a topic that has been elevated to a more important position since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012. An array of policies since then has been adopted to improve people's livelihoods and eliminate poverty, laying a solid foundation for shared affluence.

The goal of reaching common prosperity can't be obtained overnight; it must be a dynamic process that keeps evolving. It requires huge social wealth and high-quality economic growth as the backstop. Common prosperity is not tantamount to the equal distribution of social wealth, but it does intend for the rational redistribution of an ever-rising total social wealth that meets the population's needs.

Although the Central Government has worked out some policies to optimize income distribution and ease distribution inequality, unfortunately the income gap broadens along with the booming economy.

The absolute disparity of per-capita disposable incomes for urban and rural residents remains large.

Regional income disparity keeps widening. The reform and opening-up policy first benefited the coastal regions in the eastern areas. Although the Central Government has ramped up supportive policies for the central and western regions

and per-capita income there has seen obvious improvement in the past decade, a big breach lingers between east and west. For example, per-capita income in Guizhou Province in the southwest increased by 10.7 percent year on year in 2019, higher than the rate of the 8.2 percent of Shanghai in the east. However, in 2019, per-capita income in Shanghai hit 69,000 yuan (\$10,600), while that for Guizhou stood around 20,000 yuan (\$3,070).

China manages to maintain economic and social stability largely because of its high economic growth and low unemployment rate. The widening income gap is accompanied by a rising income for low-income earners and a shrinking poor population. However, given that a slowdown in economic growth has already become inevitable, the aforementioned income disparity will pose a bigger challenge to the quest for common prosperity.

To crack this hard nut, efforts should primarily home in on both primary distribution and redistribution.

As for primary distribution, the market mechanism should play a decisive role in resource allocation to cushion the impact on income distribution triggered by industrial monopoly, market distortion, government interventions, as well as discrimination based on gender and regional disparity.

As for redistribution, the government needs to thrust ahead more reforms. Taxation can play a bigger role in adjusting income distribution. Current taxation structure, exemplified by the unduly low proportion of personal income tax, a direct tax, and disproportionately high quantity of value-added tax, an indirect tax, will be updated for better redistribution. Moreover, the government should increase fiscal transfer payments to those living in relative poverty. China has primarily set up old age and basic medical security systems covering the whole society, but these two systems share the same problem: Different social groups enjoy different levels of security. And these levels feature some striking differences.

If China means to realize common prosperity, huge economic aggregate and high-quality economic growth have made the restructuring of social wealth distribution a necessity. This most recent meeting is seen as a precursor to more in-depth reforms in coming years.



USA & China: Economy and Trade

Source: CIA World Factbook, accessed 20 August 2021

All \$ are US dollars; est. = estimate

	USA	China
ECONOMY		
Direct involvement in economy	Very small	Significant via SOEs (35%?).
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (2019 est.) 'Official exchange rate' basis (also called 'Nominal' basis)	\$21.4 Trillion	\$14.3 Trillion
Real GDP on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) basis	\$20.5 Trillion	\$22.5 Trillion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real GDP / PPP per capita (2010 dollars) World ranking 	\$62,530 15 th of 228	\$16,117 106 th of 228
GDP growth rate (2019 est.)	2.16%	6.14%
GDP composition (2017 est.)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Industry Services 	0.9% 19.1% 80.0%	7.9% 40.5% 51.6%
Inflation rate (2019 est.) (increase in Consumer Price Index)	1.8%	2.8%
Total population (July 2021 est.)	335 million	1,384 million
Labour force (2019 est.)	(USA has different breakup)	
Total, of which:	Australia 12.6 M	775 Million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Industry Services 	3.6% 21.1% 75.3%	27.7% 28.8% 43.5%
Unemployment rate (2018 est.)	3.89%	3.84% (urban)
INTERNATIONAL TRADE		
Exports (USA 2019 est, China 2018) Major export markets	\$2.38 Trillion Canada 17%, Mexico 16%, China 7%.	\$2.49 Trillion USA 17%, HK 10%, Japan 6%.
Imports (USA 2019 est, China 2018) Major import sources	\$3.21 Trillion China 18%, Mex 15%, Canada 13%, Japan 6%, Germany 5%.	2.14 Trillion S Korea 9%, Japan 8%, Australia 7%, Germany 7%, USA 7%.
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold (as at 31 December 2017 est.)	\$123 Billion	\$3,236 Billion

Compiled by member **Alex Olah**. Look for more, similar, tables in coming issues.



Australia China Friendship Society ACT Branch — membership application form

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