

# Opportunities to understand China

A selection of new titles that will be made available in English and other languages

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## Anecdotes and Sayings of Xi Jinping

Chinese publisher People's Publishing House agreed with Germany-based Springer Nature, Russia's Chance Group and Japan's Duan Press to publish the English, Russian and Japanese versions of this book, consisting of articles compiled by the *People's Daily*.

"President Xi has a unique and charming style of giving speeches, quoting anecdotes and stories," said Wu Shangzhi, vice-minister of the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, at the signing ceremony in Beijing.

The book is a selection of 109 such anecdotes and stories from Xi's speeches, and explanations and interpretations are also offered. More than 1.1 million copies of the book have been distributed in the Chinese market.

Roman Gerasimov, general manager of the Russian publisher, said the book will be helpful for Russian researchers as well as for gen-

eral readers to know more about the president.

## Books on Philosophy and Social Sciences

The China Social Science Press, under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), is a major publisher in social sciences. At the Beijing International Book Fair in August, it shared its plans.

Its president, Zhao Jianying, said it has worked with 30 foreign publishers and released 80 titles in foreign languages.

The China Insights series, the China Perspective series, the Concise Reader series and the China Academic History series are some of its publications.

China Insights includes 15 Chinese titles by top scholars on economic development, the environment, culture and Chinese values. Nine of the titles are published in English by Springer, and more are to come. The Arabic, Korean and Spanish versions of the series are to be published soon.

The China Perspective series is a collection of writings by CASS members. Eight have been published by

British publisher Routledge, and four are to come.

Zhang Yi, director of Chinese Social Development Research under CASS, looks at the changing trends in China's social classes in his new book, *The Five Waves*.

"In 2006, 40 percent of Chinese were farmers. But a significant shift occurred in 2011, and now the new middle class plus working class outnumber the farmers. And in 2020, there will be more middle class," said Zhang.

## China's Competitiveness

Yilin Press has signed an agreement with the UK-based New Classic Press to publish the English version of a six-volume series on Chinese high-speed rail.

"While introducing advanced science and technology, the books can discuss the unique aspects and advantages of Chinese production. They expound on the 'artisan spirit', and can change foreign stereotypes of Chinese creativity," said Zhao Haiyun with the import management department of the State Administration of Press, Publica-

tion, Radio, Film and Television.

Xie Shanqing from Yilin said the books are based on comprehensive, real and authoritative sources, and contain the latest achievements and data. Farough Khodadadi from the British publisher said the series shows that China is achieving all-round development.

## Intelligent Manufacturing and Robots

Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province, is to release the English version of its series on intelligent manufacturing theories and technology. The university has a national-level key laboratory and is collaborating with top experts from other organizations to finish the books.

## Happy Dreams

A novel by veteran writer Jia Pingwa, published in Chinese in 2007, *Happy Dreams* tells stories of Liu Gaoxing, a trash collector from rural Shaanxi in Northwest China.

"People like Gaoxing were first-generation migrant workers. They

are at the margins of urban life because they can't be part of the city. At the same time they can't go back to their villages as they have lost their land," said Jia.

Translated by award-winning literary translator Nicky Harman, the novel will be released by Amazon in digital and print worldwide.

## China Creation series

China Intercontinental Press and Gale International have worked on publishing *China Emerging: 1978-2008*, released in 2009, and the 12-volume *The Sinopedia Series*, released in 2010.

The partners will also work on titles about China's achievements in space technology and hydraulic engineering.

Terry Robinson, senior vice-president of Gale International, said: "International readers will be able to understand China's economic restructuring better, and the determined effort to transform China from an export-oriented manufacturing center into an economy driven by innovation in technology and engineering."

## Books and tea culture unite countries

Title by award-winning Chinese writer in Belt and Road series is translated in Indian languages, Bengali and Hindi

By GUAN XIAOMENG

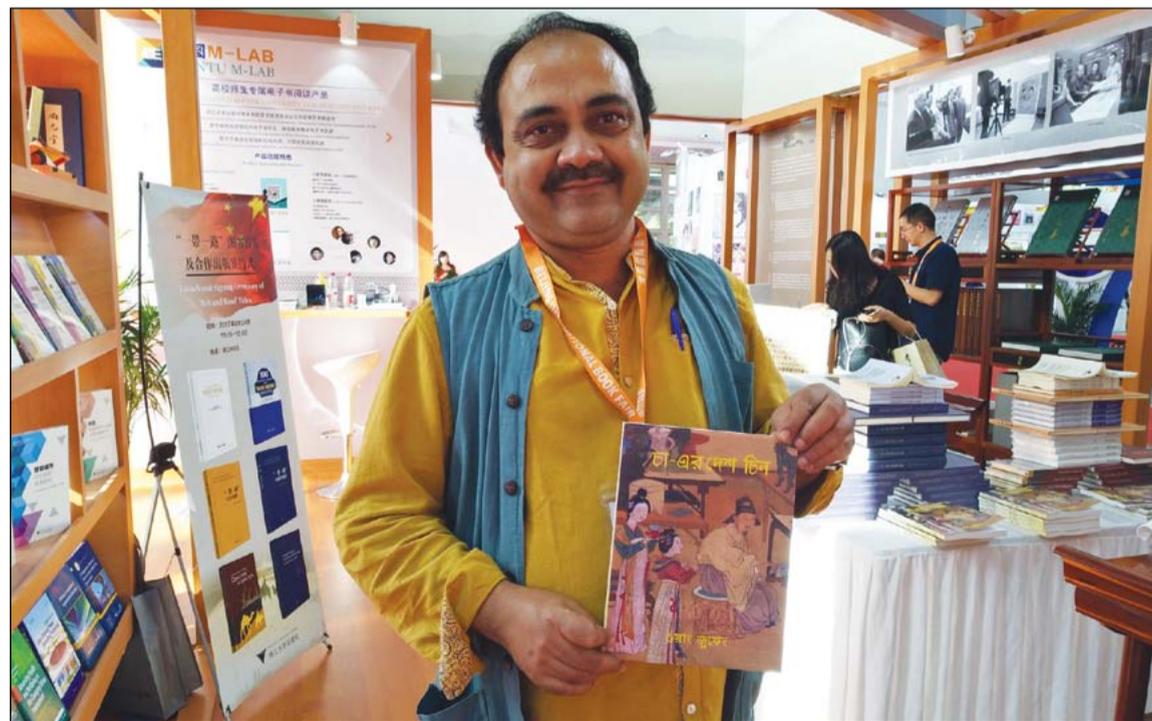
*The Land of Tea, or Rui Cao Zhi Guo*, by Chinese writer Wang Xufeng saw its Bengali version launched on Aug 24 by Sampark Publishing House of India during the Beijing International Book Fair, and the Hindi translation is nearing completion.

The book was first published by Zhejiang University Press (ZJUP) in 2001 and was chosen as one of ZJUP's export selections of the Belt and Road Initiative titles to coincide with the national campaign which is in full swing.

The Belt and Road series covers more than 100 disciplines including archaeology, arts, religion and law of the countries involved in the initiative, in more than 10 languages such as English, Spanish, Russian, Turkish and Bengali.

Proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative is the China-led plan to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes.

Sunandan Roy Chowdhury, publisher at Sampark, said his press used to be influenced by the West. Now it is starting to look east, espe-



Publisher Sunandan Roy Chowdhury with the Bengali version of *The Land of Tea*. GUAN XIAOMENG / CHINA DAILY

cially to Turkey, Pakistan and China.

"We are tapping China as we share the same culture, such as love for tea. Through books we can build peace between the two countries as

we both are lands of tea."

The writer and tea culture scholar Wang Xufeng won one of China's top literary awards, the 5th Mao Dun Literary Prize awarded in Novem-

ber 2000, for *Trilogy of Tea and Man*, her novel about the history of a family tea business in Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province. *The Land of Tea* further testifies to the

varied roles of China's tea culture.

India has 22 recognized languages, and Bengali and Hindi are two of the most popular apart from English.

Chowdhury said one of the challenges is translation. "The Bengali translator will translate this book from English and may not know Chinese."

Likewise, there are few Bengali speakers in China. According to a study released last year by the Ministry of Education and the State Language Commission, more than 40 languages are spoken in the countries along the Belt and Road routes, however only 20 of them are taught at Chinese universities, with students enrolled in a Bengali major numbering less than 50 in 2015.

But for Chowdhury the language barrier is not a problem. "Sampark means relationship or contact in Hindi. We are building relationships through books."

And he seems to know how to get Indians to buy the book. "We have blown up the images, as the book has many beautiful paintings and photos. And then we plan to hold an art exhibition based on this book to attract more publicity and more readers."