

Key forum urges building shared future for mankind

Speakers highlight exhibitions from the world's ancient civilizations in Palace Museum

By WANG KAIHAO

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The trend of calling for a shared future for mankind is irreversible in cultural circles. It was proved so at the fifth annual conference of the Taihu World Cultural Forum in Beijing.

Speakers highlighted exhibitions from the world's ancient civilizations — including India, Afghanistan and Greece — in the Palace Museum in Beijing.

Shan Jixiang, director of the museum, knows mutual learning and cross-border communication is a foundation to better promote Chinese culture on the global stage, which is contrary to the old name of the museum — the Forbidden City.

“Our exhibition hall needs to be opened for the world's most brilliant cultures,” he said at the meeting. “That will help more cultures better understand China and vice versa.”

Over the past six years since Shan stepped into his current job, 135

exhibitions from the Palace Museum have gone beyond the red walls of this former imperial palace of China, with dozens of exhibitions taking place abroad.

A digital display of the cultural relics in the museum went on a worldwide tour earlier this year to seven cities: Tokyo, Brussels, Seoul, Bangkok, Sydney, Singapore and Cotonou in Benin. Education programs for children also took place in countries like Australia, Malta and Thailand.

The museum receives trainees from 69 foreign countries on the conservation of cultural relics, and it also invites scholars from Italy to handle the challenging restoration of murals, and French and Swiss professionals to join restoration work of its collection of antique clocks.

“We work in the Forbidden City,” he said. “And it's a Forbidden City for the whole world.”

Such sentiments are echoed by Wu Weishan, chief artist of the forum and director of the National Art Museum of China.

“Cultures created by different



Wang Chen (center), a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, attends the opening ceremony of the fifth annual conference of the Taihu World Cultural Forum in Beijing on Oct 18 with Zhang Meiyong (first from right), vice-chairwoman of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and honorary chairwoman of the Taihu World Cultural Forum; Ali Ahmedov (second from right), deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan; Altynai Omurbekova (second from left), vice-prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, and Li Yi (first from left), secretary of the CPC committee of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

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CHOGJIN
President of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies and a member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

peoples have their unique value,” he said. “We have to respect each other to better display our own glamour.”

A famous artist in his own right, Wu has produced full-body sculptures of both Leonardo Da Vinci and Chinese painter Qi Baishi.

Wu's recent project with the Taihu Forum aimed to create a series of sculptures on “smiles”.

“Smiling is the best facial expression of mankind,” he explained. “Thanks to this friendly gesture, we can sail from culture to culture.”

Scott Beaumont, vice-president at Google responsible for sales and operations in Greater China and Korea, shared the Google Arts & Culture project at the plenary meeting, which creates new approaches to promoting Chinese culture.

He said 29 Chinese museums, including the Palace Museum and the National Art Museum of China,

have become partners. Digital exhibitions with high-definition pictures have benefited not only the emperors' collections of olden times, but also works of modern masters like Qi and Xu Beihong.

In a museum in Shanghai, a new technology was used to project a Chinese zodiac in shadow play for children to have more resonance with traditional culture.

“Globalization has urged us to care more about cultural diversity than at any previous time,” said Chogjin, president of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies and a member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

“Diversity safeguards various wisdoms of mankind, but the world also needs more consensus to become united. It is up to us whether the future will be harmonious or full of conflict.”

TCM primary topic of discussion

Traditional Chinese medicine can help to build a community of shared future for mankind, forum hears

By LI YINGXUE

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The Forum on 2018 Chinese Medicine Culture Development was held on Oct 18 in Beijing as an important part of the fifth annual conference of the Taihu World Cultural Forum.

The gathering focused on Traditional Medicine and Human Health, Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind.

Chairman of the forum Yan Zhaozhu conveyed President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter to the forum and wished the event success.

Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Min-

ister Ali Ahmedov considered traditional Chinese medicine to be historic and informative. “Chinese medicine is abundant in what it can treat,” Ahmedov said. “It contains both old Chinese philosophy as well as its values.”

Wang Yongyan, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering and honorary president of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, gave a speech about the development of traditional Chinese medicine at the forum, followed by a dialogue about how traditional Chinese medicine builds a community of shared future for mankind.

The inauguration ceremony of the Palace Museum Research Institute's Chinese Medicine Culture Study Research Institute was also held during the forum.

Shan Jixiang, director of the Palace Museum, said he is looking forward to combining the Palace Museum and traditional Chinese medicine.

“We have 1.86 million pieces of historical relics, and we are short-handed on staff to research them all. Among them, the Palace Museum has about 3,300 objects that are related to traditional Chinese medicine including Chinese herbal medicine, implements and prescriptions,” said Shan.

“We have 231 categories of cultural relics in total,” said Shan, who hoped the masters and researchers of Chinese medicine could help with research in this category.

The Palace of Eternal Longevity, refitted two years ago, will serve as the exhibition hall for traditional Chinese medicine, which will present cultural relics and research works.

“We don't want our cultural relics to sleep in the warehouse, but let them have a colorful history and a dignified present, as well as a healthy future,” Shan said.

Lyu Aiping, president of the Col-

lege of Traditional Chinese Medicine at Hong Kong Baptist University, said that establishing a Chinese Medicine Culture Study Research Institute within the Palace Museum Research Institute is a farsighted decision.

“To spread Chinese medicine, we should spread its culture first,” said Lyu. “If we can combine the scientific value and theoretical value of the cultural relics of the Palace Museum, its potential to spread is infinite.”

“The power will bring the scientific elements of Chinese medicine to the whole world,” Lyu said.