

CHINA FOCUS

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PRELUDE

Beginning the first year of the new century, we'll publish an annual edition of this *China Focus*.

Ever since the world's first photograph was produced in the 19th century, photographic reporting has been used to record history. With a strong visual impact, news photos enable people to "see" for themselves, and are capable of conveying messages beyond the description of mere words. This album of news photos, therefore, is intended to visualize what happened in China in the year prior to its publication.

For China, the year 2001 assumed a special significance. The country became a full member of the World Trade Organization. Beijing won the 2008 Olympic Games. For the first time, China's national football team won the right to compete in the World Cup finals. Moreover, Shanghai played host to the ninth APEC meeting. We hope that this latest edition of *China Focus* will help refresh your memory of these and other events. The *China Focus*, as a matter of fact, is intended to record the changes that took place in the past year in all aspect of the country now striving to modernize -- its national economy, society, culture, education, science and technology, etc. Besides, photos in the album are focused on the ordinary Chinese, the life and weal and woe of the men and women like you and me. The album can therefore be likened to a concise yearbook of China in pictures.

Photos in this album are independent of one another,

as each records just one event or is on just one theme. Nevertheless, the events, in one way or another, were interconnected as the photos were taken in the same year and in the same country with a land territory of 9.6 million square kilometers. For this reason, the album can also be likened to a traditional Chinese painting done on a long scroll consisting of numerous landscapes that are seemingly independent of one another but knitted together by a central theme. To put it another way, the photos reflect China from a variety of angles--nay, a world so colorful and so kaleidoscopic.

Reading this album many years later, your memory may be carried back to evening of July 13, 2001, when people were praying for Beijing just before the International Olympic Committee chose the city to host the 2008 Olympic Games. The album may remind you of the moment when China's chief WTO negotiator Long Yongtu was checking time with a colleague just before the Doha meeting opened to approve China's entry into the world trade body. You'll "see" the woman who, on board a Chinese warship, sprayed pure white flower petals onto the sea to mourn her husband, a navy pilot, who had been missing for 26 days after his jet fighter collided with an American spy plane and was believed dead.

This is *China Focus* -- 2001, which is focused on the vast land of China: once the land of humiliation and now the land of hope and glory.

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THE TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

It was March 2001, time for the year's National People's Congress Session, which was to become the focus of media attention as the previous sessions.

The Fourth Session of the Ninth NPC, which was held March 5-15 in Beijing, adopted the Tenth Five-Year Plan of the People's Republic of China for Economic and Social Development (Outline), the first for the new century.

Five-year plans set the targets and orientation for long-term development of the national economy, and specify major and important construction projects to be undertaken, the distribution of productive forces and major proportionate relationships. Thanks to their implementation, China has constantly grown in strength, the life of the Chinese people has kept improving, and the country has changed beyond recognition.

Before China adopted the state policy of reform and opening two decades ago, the Soviet-style planned economy held sway and consequently, the five-year plans were mandatory. In fact all economic targets set in these plans had to be fulfilled – the increase to be achieved in total industrial output value, the

number of industrial and mining projects to be built, etc. The Tenth Five-Year Plan, however, was formulated when China had by and large accomplished the task of building up a socialist market economy. It is a guidance plan, a plan characterized by full respect for the laws governing the development of the market economy and with the emphasis on strategic restructuring of the national economy. The plan just outlines the overall targets for China's economic and social development, without specific norms for each and every industry.

The Tenth Five-Year Plan shows that China has abandoned the practice of regulating the country's development solely through planning. It just lays out the strategies for national development, and calls for use of policy guidance to realize the development targets. Five-year plans formulated under the planned economy invariably stressed expansion of the national economy in quantitative terms. In contrast, the latest five-year plan attaches special importance to the quality of the economic growth and the economic performance of the various sectors of the national economy.

Photo by Li Jianquan



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BEIJING WINS THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES.

Beijing won the 2008 Olympic Games with 56 votes in its favor, after two rounds of voting that took place at an International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Moscow on July 13, 2001. Eight years ago, in 1993, the Chinese capital failed in its bid for the right to host the 2000 Olympic Games. It lost to Sydney, Australia, short of two votes.

"New Beijing, Great Olympics" – this is the slogan for Beijing's bid for the 2008 Olympics. Beijing's successful bid for the 2008 Olympic Games testifies to the truth of this current Chinese saying: "sports develop when the country is strong and prosperous". It means that a century-old dream cherished by the Chinese nation has come true.

Altogether, 24 summer Olympic Games have been held, and China has so far participated in nine.

Before the first modern Olympiad was held in 1894, the IOC had invited China to participate. The invitation was ignored. The country, then under the Qing Dynasty, had suffered national humiliations in a string of wars launched by imperialist powers against it and been reduced to utter backwardness and poverty.

In 1908, the *Tianjin Youth*, a magazine launched by a group of enlightened youths, raised three questions and ask the entire nation to ponder over: When will it be possible for China to send an athlete to an Olympic Games? When will it be possible for China to send a team of athletes to compete at Olympic Games? When will it be possible for China to host an Olympic

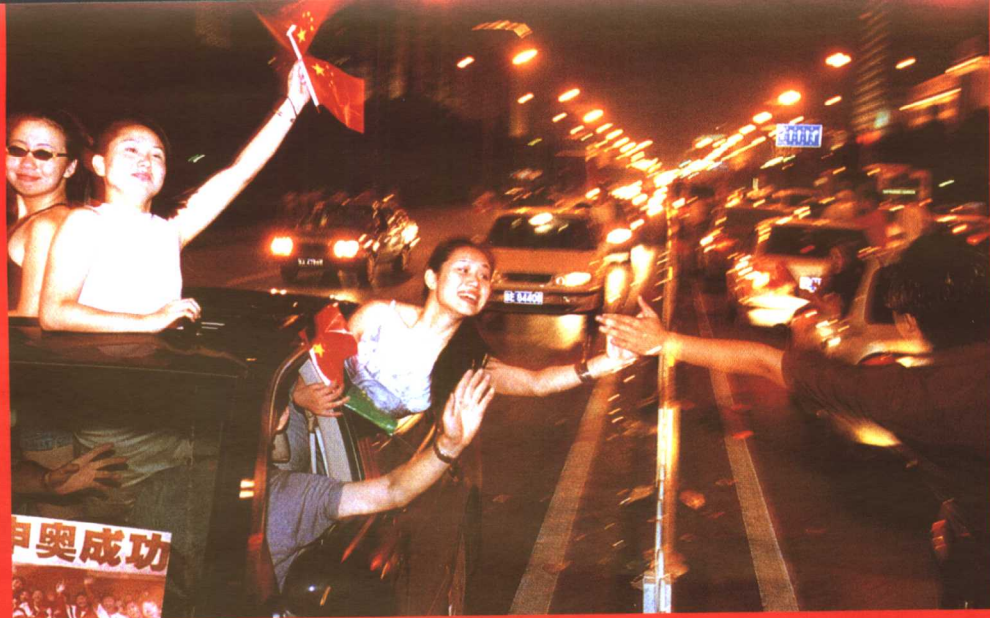
Games?

The first question was answered in 1932, when China sent a single athlete to the 10th Olympic Games. Following that, Chinese sports delegations attended the 11th in 1936 and the 14th in 1948. The People's Republic of China, which was born on October 1, 1949, participated in the 15th Olympic Games.

Unfortunately, China was forced to break off its relations with the IOC. It was unable to participate in any of the Olympic Games until after the IOC restored its legitimate rights in the world Olympic community in November 1979 while allowing Taiwan to participate in Olympic Games in the name "China Taipei Olympic Committee".

After 32 years' absence from the Olympic arena, China participated in the 23rd Olympic Games in 1984. Chinese athletes won 15 gold medals – in fact the first Olympic gold medals to the country's credit – that placed China the fourth in the gold medal tally. At the 24th Olympic Games in 1988, Chinese athletes won 16 gold medals, standing the fourth in the gold medal tally. The number of gold medals won by Chinese athletes grew to 16 at the 25th Olympic Games in 1992 – again the fourth in the gold medal tally. Chinese athletes snatched the same number of gold medals at the 26th Olympic Games, the fourth in both the gold medal and all-medal tallies. At the 27th Olympic Games in 2000, China won 28 gold medals, and its place rose to the third in both the gold medal and all-medal tallies.

Photo (upper) by Li Ke
Photo (lower) by Bai Ying



CHINA ENTERS THE WTO

After exhausting negotiations that lasted for as long as 15 years, China became a full member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

This came at the fourth ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization on November 10, 2001 in Doha, capital of Qatar, which decided to accept China as the 143rd member of the world trade body.

China was one of the countries that initiated the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947, and acquired the GATT observer status in April 1984. In July 1986, the country applied for restoration of its status as a signatory state to GATT, and that kicked off a process of prolonged, arduous negotiation.

The WTO was founded in 1995 to replace the GATT, and the negotiations on restoration of China's status as a signatory state to GATT changed into negotiations on China's entry of the WTO. The jurisdiction of the WTO is much broader than the jurisdiction of the GATT. It covers not only commodity trade but also service and investment trade as well as protection of intel-

lectual property related to commodity trading. And consequently, the negotiations on China's entry of the WTO had to involve a much broader range of issues with the focus on banking, telecommunications and other services. On May 23, 1997, China reached the first bilateral market access agreement with Hungary, but a breakthrough came on November 15, 1999 when China and the United States signed a bilateral trade agreement that removed all the barriers to China's WTO entry. The negotiations on China's WTO entry ended with the signing by China of a bilateral trade agreement with Mexico on September 13, 2001.

China finds itself inseparable from the world in striving for development. Likewise, it won't do for the world to cut it off from China. China's entry of the WTO indicates that the country has got involved in the mainstream of the world economy and that its opening has entered a new phase of development. Meanwhile, the world will definitely benefit from China's WTO entry.

*Photos (left) Cheng Tieliang
Photo (right) by Guo Yiyang*



CHINA QUALIFIED FOR WORLD CUP FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Chinese soccer team made a historic breakthrough in 2001. They beat Oman 1-0 at an Asian World Cup qualifier on October 7, which meant that the country had secured a berth in this summer's premier soccer tournament with two matches in hand. It was China's seventh bid for the tournament, which the country has wooed for as long as 44 years.

China launched its first bid in 1957 for the sixth World Cup finals in Sweden. Their campaign failed after wrapping up a 1:1 record against Indonesia and losing an away match against Burma in the group stage.

China did not start its second World Cup bid until 1981. In that year, China had such a plain sailing that they were on the verge of the World Cup finals. The national squad was so sure of the qualifying success that they went on holiday after finishing all the group matches. But after Saudi Arabia surprisingly lost 0-5 to New Zealand in the same group competition, Chinese players had to cut short their holiday and reassembled for the play-off against New Zealand. The eventual 2-1 loss to the Oceanian country relentlessly ended China's hopes for the tournament.

The qualifying campaign in 1985 was very hopeful. China needed no more than a draw with minnows Hong Kong in the last group match to reach the World Cup finals. But they were upset 1-2 by Hong Kong in Beijing on May 19 and shut outside of the tournament. The surprising loss sparked off a fan riot.

China's fourth bid in 1989 was marred by the notorious "black three minutes". China lost two group matches in the same

manner: conceding two goals in the last three minutes. The nightmarish "black three minutes" nullified China's years of efforts.

In 1993, China pinned its hope on German Klaus Schlappner, the first foreign head coach of the national eleven. But the German failed to live up to the expectations, as his charges were stopped in the wake of losses to Iraq and Yemen at the group stage.

The last campaign came in 1997 when China stormed to the second round at Asian qualification. But at the first match of the stage, they blew a 2-0 lead before losing 2-4 to Iran at home court. Afterwards, they lost a crucial match against Qatar after squandering a one-goal lead. China's sixth bid turned out to be a disappointing failure.

China has undergone a transition to the market-oriented economy. Coupled with the economic reform, Chinese soccer embarked on a professionalisation drive about ten years ago, turning government-run clubs into market entities. Foreign footballers have appeared in the Chinese football league, and on the other hand, Chinese players have begun to ply their trade in European leagues. Nowadays, Chinese first-division soccer clubs are all run in a professional manner, and the country's soccer ruling body is preparing for the Chinese Premiership League, aiming to elevate the sport to a higher level in this soccer-crazy country.

Photo by Wang Jiang



APEC MEETING HELD IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai became the focus of global attention when it played host to the Ninth Economic Leaders' Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization (APEC) October 15-21. This was the first most important international meeting held after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States. The fact that a Chinese city was chosen to host the meeting testified to international recognition of the sustained, healthy economic development the country had achieved and to its status as a key player in economic development of the Asia-Pacific Region. For its importance, the meeting has been hailed as one of the three greatest steps taken by China in 2001 to go global, the other two being China's accession to the WTO and Beijing's successful bid for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The theme of the APEC meeting was summarized as "new century, new challenges; cooperation, participation and common prosperity". Leaders and officials of APEC members shared

their views on ways of strengthening the multilateral trade regime, promoting trade liberalization in the Asia-Pacific Region and advancing economic and technological cooperation between countries. Consensus of opinion was reached on a wide range of issues, resulting in the signing of the Declaration of APEC Leaders and its supplementary document Shanghai Consensus. The meeting also produced a declaration on fight against terrorism.

China became a full APEC member at the organization's 1991 meeting in Seoul. Before China's entry into the WTO, APEC was the sole international economic organization to which China had acceded. The country has had close economic relations with fellow members of APEC. China's trade with them came to a total of US\$473.3 billion in 2000. APEC members invested a total of US\$40 billion in China, accounting for nearly 77% of the total the country was able to attract that year.

*Photo (upper) by Yang Shizhong and
Photo (lower) by Zhou Yingjie*



COLLISION OF CHINESE AND AMERICAN PLANES

After 26 days of futile search on the high seas, Chinese navy pilot Wang Wei, believed dead, was honored at a memorial service held on board a warship on the South China Sea.

On April 1, 2001, an American military reconnaissance plane was flying over the sea close to China's territorial waters off the Hainan Island, followed by two Chinese fighter planes to monitor its activities in conformity to international practices. At 9:07 hours, the American plane made an abrupt turn while the Chinese planes were flying normally, colliding with the plane piloted by Wang Wei. The Chinese fighter plane crashed into the sea and the pilot parachuted. Crippled, the American plane intruded into China's airspace and landed at the Lingshui Airport on the Hainan Island without permission of the Chinese side.

On April 11, the American side expressed "sincere regret" over the missing pilot and aircraft, and asked the Chinese side to convey to the Chinese people and the family of pilot Wang

Wei that "we are very sorry for their loss". In view of this and out of humanitarian considerations, the Chinese side decided to let the American crew leave after completing certain procedures. After that, the two sides held negotiations on the incident.

Ever since President Nixon's ice-breaking visit to China in 1972, relations between the two countries have, in general, followed a trend of constant development even though there have been twists and turns. China is the largest developing country and the United States, the most powerful country in the world, and both are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The two countries have common interests on issues vital to world peace and both play an important role in the handling of these issues. Maintenance and development of a sound, stable relationship between the two countries conform to the fundamental interests of both peoples and are conducive to peace, stability and development of the Asia-Pacific Region and the world.

Photo by Mou Jianwei

