China is an enchanting blend of old and new. This five-thousand-year civilization has a rich cultural and natural heritage. It also has all the youth and vigor of a country newly born again. Just consider the flourishing economy and the ever-changing lifestyles on display, from Internet Cafés to philharmonic-styled Peking Opera. Consider also its new role on the world stage as a new WTO member and host for the Olympics. China Radio International will host another knowledge contest that will outline China’s development in various fields. The knowledge contest, named “China Today,” will include topics such as: economic development, foreign policy, culture, science and education. After each report, two questions will be posted. We’ll select seven winners from different countries. The top prize is a free trip to China next year where the winner can experience first-hand this beautiful country that will play host to the 2008 Olympic Games.

China Radio International has presented many knowledge contests over the years. Veteran listeners are surely very familiar with the format. Some of you may have already been the lucky winners and realized your dream of coming to China. The good news for those of you who have tried before is that you’ll soon have an equal opportunity to win a free trip yourself! We’ll premiere five new knowledge contest reports in a one-hour news broadcast between July 29th and August 2nd at the end of “News and Reports.” If you miss some of the reports, you don’t need to worry; we’ll be re-broadcasting them each day during the week of September 23rd through the 27th. The deadline for submitting the completed questionnaire falls on December 31st. 2002. Answer carefully—China awaits.

Inside this edition of The Messenger, you’ll find your entry form for the next knowledge contest. Good luck!
“My World Cup Mail”

by Dong Jun. • CRI correspondent for the 2002 World Cup


Sports — Flowers in China

Between Narrowband and Broadband

“Why didn’t you memorize exactly where the composer took a break?”. I thought to myself with regret while trying to locate the bar on sina.com’s e-mail page. It was supposed to appear in Chinese, but all I saw before me was a jumble of Korean characters. I was sitting in an Internet Café in Seoul at 3:40am, May 30, three hours before I was to set out for the airport where an early morning flight would take me to Sapporo, northern Japan. A couple of test clicks later and before long I had found the right one. My voice report, compressed into an mp3 file, was now ready to go. It was a 1.75-megabyte, and the remaining 20 minutes would allow me to stretch and flex the stress out of my muscles, and start trying to communicate with the friendly maintenance boy who was scouring my history for the handful of English words he had at his command. Need- less to say, he understood enough to take the 1000-won fee.

I didn’t have to resort to internet cafes in Japan. Instead, I was able to use the Internet access of our Tokyo Bureau wherever I was, from Hok- kaido to Kyushu, simply by dialing a local number designated for each place. Dial-up connect- ion? I’m afraid so, at a speed of between 26 and 49 kbps. No matter how many hours it took for my voice-mail to get through, or how late into the night/morning I had to wait for my reports to be completely sent for Beijing to use the next day, my colleagues gave me the thumbs-up for the sound quality that was much superior to that of the traditional IDD transmitted ones. I used the Cool Edit audio editing software to do it all.

Only eight weeks later did I realize how much cheaper the Korean Internet Café was as I nervously poured through my bulky telecom bills from Japan.

Besides the expense, there was no cell phone rental/return booth at To- kyo’s Narita Airport as there was in Seoul’s Ancheon Airport. Nor was there a bill printed automatically as you replaced the handset. In this respect at least, Korea’s Narita Airport was much less convenient than Seoul’s Ancheon Airport. Only eight weeks later did I realize how much cheaper the Korean Internet Café was as I nervously poured through my bulky telecom bills from Japan.

As part of the crew, I was finally able to watch top Asian level matches on my first ever World Cup journey in Japan anyway. And I wasn’t given much cause to harbor any preferences between the two co-hosts — they both made a gigantic effort to put together a unique sporting gala. Perhaps the biggest regret of not having stayed in South Korea longer was the fact that I wasn’t any closer to the debutant Chinese team than my fellow fans at home.

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Dragging me to Japan were the national teams of England, Germany and Italy that I was charged with reporting on, as part of CRI’s massive coverage of the tournament. Two of the six people sent from Beijing, including myself, would have to stay in Japan for the group stages at the very least.

From 1st to 4th

My first memory of the World Cup dates back to 1978, when China’s Cen- tral TV aired a recording of the Argentina-Holland final half a day after the actual match had been played in Buenos Aires. It was the first time a World Cup match had been seen by Chinese soccer fans. Three years later, China kicked off a series of World Cup qualifying efforts, a sustained campaign that only bore fruit after the tournament, fell early and didn’t make it to the second stage. The chrysanthemum has been anthropomorphized in many ways. Some people consider it haughty and unbending. Some sympathize with its loneliness, as it blooms so late in the year. However, Tao Yuanming, a poet of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, was the first to eulogize its splendor when he wrote, “The autumn chrysanthemum is such a beauty.” Scholars of the following dynasties continued to value the chrysanthemum, and many new varieties appeared. The chrysanthemum has been anthropomorphized in many ways. Some people consider it haughty and unbending. Some sympathize with its loneliness, as it blooms so late in the year. However, Tao Yuanming, a poet of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, was the first to eulogize its splendor when he wrote, “The autumn chrysanthemum is such a beauty.” Scholars of the following dynasties continued to value the chrysanthemum, and many new varieties appeared.

Chrysanthemum

Cultivation of the chrysanthemum began in China 3,000 years ago. Now a favorite ornamental flower, it was at first regarded only as an edible and medicinal plant. The ancient medical treatise Shennong Materia Medica (Shennong Ben Cao) states that a dose of chrysanthemum gives you energy and puts spring in your step. Ge Hong (AD 284-364), a physician of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, described a chrysanthemum-covered valley in Henan Province, saying that the local people who drank from the river passing through the valley lived longer lives.

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I went to the United States in April for the NAB (National Association of Broadcasters) 2002 Exhibits held in Las Vegas. The physical image of America is no longer a mystery but I still wonder why it took me so long to write down all the feelings and what I experienced there. Maybe I need some time to jump out of that complex image in my mind. There is too much to talk about.

Finally, I found a breaking point—Point Love at work. That's probably the most valuable thing I learned during the trip. The following words are mainly stories plus personal feelings I wrote after my visit to NBC. And I hope you can also find love at work.

Rainy Friday, New York. NBC is a big money machine!

April marks the re-awakening of New York. It's time for a coming out; it's time for cherry trees and azaleas to pop open in Central Park, and it's time for sidewalk and garden cafes to dust themselves off all over town.

For a week in April, anything but the cruellest month, because of the endless commercials of NBC celebrating its 75th Anniversary on air. They're everywhere—Airline flights, hotel rooms, prints, TV and radio shows and even neon lights. Surprisingly, I still remember the names of those NBC best programs, which appeared on the ads, like "Access Hollywood", "Dateline NBC", "NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw", "Today Show with Jay Leno", "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", "TODAY" and "CNBC, MSNBC & NBC Sports"—It's not only because money paves the way, or just advertising practically pays back. NBC is truly everywhere on the ads, like "Access Hollywood", "Dateline NBC", "NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw", "Today Show with Jay Leno", "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", "TODAY" and "CNBC, MSNBC & NBC Sports"—It's not only because money paves the way, or just advertising practically pays back. NBC is truly everywhere—everywhere. And I think I could have a clear picture of what this media giant really is: NBC is much more than a souvenir shop. It's that shop that gives me a clearer picture of what the American culture is.

And then I have to give a lecture about CNN and our programs, which sometimes really drives them crazy (my poor skill at marketing!). Even today, after 60 years on air as China's No. 1 broadcaster, I can still speak a little bit of Chinese. Actually, we devote more to hard-core News and Feature programs, much less to music, and too little to marketing.

When I take taxis, I always ask the drivers to switch to English. (Big clocks showing them in front of both admission offices.) And you can find this kind of pride and enthusiasm everywhere. The staff wear the same uniform like Frank MacDonald's. The way they greet visitors—"Welcome to NBC"—is just like the way they say "Hi" to their families' guests. And from their smiling faces, you can really tell that they enjoy what they're doing as part of their lives. And such enjoyment, I believe, may optimize their job performance and maximize their contributions to NBC.

I asked that tour guide whether it is very difficult to work in NBC. He told me that surviving all the trainings is the most challenging part. I may take three months for new employees to know how to operate all the equipments, how to help visitors get what they want, to know the history of NBC in detail, specific information about every NBC show and even the way of greeting. Such intensive training helps them better understand NBC and find a specific job that fits them the most.

Thanks to our management team, we have already had many training lectures that are very helpful and effective, like how to be a good announcer, what makes a qualified reporter, and how to produce live shows. However, besides all these formal training lectures, I think we also need some packaging and publicity activities to provide our listeners a closer look of who we are and what we do.

To let listeners love our shows might still be step No.1 for us. To find out love at work, I'm proud of being here.

That's what the NBC tour guide said when he started self-introduction. (Sorry, I forget your name. But you left a deep impression on me, especially this sentence.) And you can find this kind of pride and enthusiasm from everybody. The staff wear the same uniform like Frank MacDonald's. The way they greet visitors—"Welcome to NBC"—is just like the way they say "Hi" to their families’ guests. And from their smiling faces, you can really tell that they enjoy what they’re doing as part of their lives. And such enjoyment, I believe, may optimize their job performance and maximize their contributions to NBC.

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The Xiao, or Dongxiao, is a very old wind instrument that has been popular among the Chinese people for thousands of years. The ancient type of Xiao was made up of 16 or 24 bamboo pipes of various lengths, each with a hole at the top for the player to blow on. These bamboo pipes were then fastened together like the logs of a raft, an instrument which people now call the Paixiao, or Pan pipes.

In the Han Dynasty, about 2,000 years ago, people found that if they made keyholes on a single pipe, it was able to produce sound of different pitches. Thus, there came into being the present day Xiao, or Dongxiao, as some people call it.

In many ways, such as the structure, the tenet of producing the sound and the playing technique, the Xiao is quite similar to the Dzi (the Messenger, Sept/Oct, edition 2000). The Dzi is a bamboo flute with an extra hole that is covered with a membrane made of the inner skin of bamboo stem, which gives the instrument a distinctive quality of tone. It is played horizontally, with the player holding the instrument sideways. The Xiao, however, is an end-blown flute, with no reed. It has five key-holes on the front of the pipe and another one on the opposite side.

Since both instruments are so much alike that if one can play the Dzi, then one can play the Xiao. In fact, there are very few professional Xiao players in Chinese traditional music ensembles; the part of the Xiao is always performed by a Dzi player.

But despite similar playing techniques, the Xiao is far less versatile than the Dzi, which, if the player is skilful enough, can readily produce rapid trills, runs and other ornaments. The Xiao perfectly matched the contemplative life of these people, and it became one of their favorite instruments.

Only a few types of bamboo are suitable for making high quality Xiao. The instrument has many varieties, including the black bamboo Dong Xiao, Yuping Xiao, and Jipu Xiao. The black bamboo Dong Xiao is somewhat thicker than the others. Its length varies, and it also produces a deeper and louder sound, suitable for both solo and ensemble. The Yuping Xiao is always performed by a player.

Ancient Chinese culture was greatly influenced by Taoism. Many well-educated people pursued a life of quietude and inaction, with few worldly desires. Ancient Chinese culture was greatly influenced by Taoism. Many well-educated people pursued a life of quietude and inaction, with few worldly desires. The literati in ancient China were particularly attracted to this instrument. Many poems were composed to express their sentiments and aspirations toward the Xiao. Well-known compositions written for solo Xiao include The Great Wall Ditty, Wild Geese on the Sand, Autumn Thoughts at the Dressing Table, and Remembrance of the Xiao Pipa.

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A BRIT’S EYE VIEW

Faces Behind the Voice - Idioms and Their Stories

As a total newcomer to the strange world of Chinese media, I joined the CRI English Service without fully knowing how things would turn out. Although I had already lived in China for three years, the realm of broadcasting still seemed to me like a world shut off from those “not in the club”. Stereotypes flooded into my mind: images of overseers in Mao suits keeping a stern eye on their underlings for possible signs of “incorrect thoughts” or the like filled the information vacuum in my head. As it turned out, these fantasies were more an indication of my ignorance than anything resembling the reality.

Growing up in England and living on a media staple of that great British institution, the BBC, one cannot but help but measure any country’s media and broadcasting outlets by the highest of standards. I say this not as a patriot, or even a snob, but merely as a person who is of the opinion that the media is an essential part of a nation’s well-being; a vital organ, if you will. If the media is sick, the country is sick. One of my favourite little Chinese phrases is zhishi jiushi liangling - knowledge is power, coincidently the motto of my alma mater in London University. The media brings you knowledge, be it facts on the latest consumer scams to watch out for, cultural events taking place two continents away or the most up to date market figures.

So what did I find after “joining the club”?

Well, even the most ignorant of laowai is aware that this ancient nation only began to free itself from the yoke of an unenlightened and dominating thought toward the end of the seventies, having to rebuild many of its institutions almost from scratch after the chaos and destruction of the so-called ‘Cultural Revolution’. For many of us in the West, time froze during this period, leaving many people with a convenient image of a nation full of red-book-wareng Mao clones on bicycles. It is a source of great shock, disappointment and frustration to me that today, in the new millennium, many in the West still choose to cling to this absurd picture like some sort of cultural security blanket, especially when 99% of the people in this country are focused on moving forward, improving their lives and devoting any knowledge they can lay their hands on about the outside world.

The deepest impression I have gotten from CRI is that there is not one man or woman working here who is satisfied with his or her work. There is a constant desire to improve, to be more entertaining, more educational, more original. As a native English speaker, I find myself constantly having my brains picked by journalists or writers who want to bring something new and refreshing to their listeners. One of my many misconceptions going into the job of being a ‘polisher’ was that I would be correcting spelling mistakes, putting in missing apostrophes and so on. Well, that may have been the case twenty years ago, but today, the increasingly savvy and professional-minded journalists want much more. Many a time have I been shamed into re-examining an article that I had previously given just a cursory glance, after a Chinese member of staff pointed out some subtle nuance that I had overlooked.

The last few years have been a heady period for the PRC. For those people coming back from a vacation on Mars I’ll give you the heavily edited highlights – Olympics 2008, World Cup qualification, APEC, WTO. There is a feeling - and I’m sure it is not confined to those living in this country - that China is beginning to step up and take its place in the world. This feeling is currently undergoing the mysterious process whereby an intangible national vibe transforms itself into a widely accepted fact. No one who watches the news on a regular basis can fail to see that China, with its jaw-droppingly large population and growing economic muscle, is rapidly becoming a world player. And as the one of the nation’s vital organs, the media is benefiting from this national state of well-being and is getting healthier by the day.

But I am under no illusion as to my purpose in being ‘invited’ as an ‘expert’. I am a tiny cog in China’s drive to reclaim its place in the world, and happy to be so. It is only when people strive to be the best they can be that they can really feel human, and if a humble polisher like myself can give someone a bunk up so that he may see what lies beyond the Great Wall of mediocrity, so be it. It has now come to the stage where, certain restrictions and obstacles notwithstanding, everyone measures the fruits of their work by the highest standards. And when that happens, progress becomes not a far-off dream, but a very tangible fact.

Fèn Dáo Yáng Bāo

Divide the road and urge the horse on (go different ways; part company)

During the Southern and Northern Dynasties Period (420 – 589 AD), there lived two very competent officials. One was Yuan Zhi, the magistrate of Luoyang County, and the other was a court official named Li Biao.

In the year 493, the emperor moved his capital to Luoyang at Li Biao’s suggestion. This brought Yuan Zhi and Li Biao together. But Yuan Zhi was lower in the rank than Li Biao, and feudal etiquette required the Luoyang magistrate to make way whenever the two men met in the street. But Yuan Zhi was a proud man, and refused to do so. They quarreled over the issue, and soon realized they would have to take their argument to the emperor. Li Biao said, “I’m an important minister for Your Majesty, Yuan Zhi, as a local official, shouldn’t contend with me.” Yuan Zhi rebutted, “I’m the highest official in the capital. All Luoyang residents are registered in my census record. Li Biao’s position is high, but now he lives within my jurisdiction. Why should I make way for him?”

The emperor thought both arguments sounded reasonable. He decided, “Luoyang is our capital and both of you have your responsibilities. You can divide the road into two lanes. Each of you can take one of the lanes.”

The two men immediately drew a line in the middle of every road in the capital. And from that day on, each official drove his carriage or horse on his own half of the road.

From that story comes the saying Fèn Dáo Yáng Bāo, which means to separate and go different ways.

Zhòng Rén Shí Chái Huŏ Yàn Gāo

众 人 拾 棍 火 焰 高

Only when all contribute their firewood can they build up a strong fire.

Chinese Proverbs

United and we can stand strong (only in unity is there strength.)
Emotional Eating

Food can be a great source of comfort when you are angry or depressed. You may start with a light snack, which you find later turns into a 3,000-calorie binge. You begin to question your will power and self-doubt creeps in. Your best eating habits are the day you go out of the window. Assuming, that is, you have a plan.

Anger, depression and anxiety can play havoc with our eating habits, because life revolves around food. Healthy eating can be difficult because our love of eating candy and desserts stem from childhood. We celebrate by eating fatty foods at birthdays, weddings and other special events.

We subconsciously use food as a reward or to subdue the pains we encounter in life. We naturally turn to unhealthy eating when we are upset. Drink eight cups of water each day and stick to it. Many people eat to fill a void in their lives. Examine your life and keep track of your eating habits. If you eat when you are not hungry, you may be trying to obtain comfort from food. Learn to eat only when you are hungry, and plan to eat four to six times a day.

Once you establish a habit of healthy eating by consuming smaller amounts of food, you will not be so vulnerable to overeating. Never eat spontaneously. Spontaneous eating in the absence of hunger is a sure sign of emotional problems, lack of discipline or lack of nutritional education.

Help prevent emotional eating by identifying issues that cause you to overeat. Find supportive friends to talk with when you feel the urge to overeat. Weight watchers is a good support and accountability organization for weight management. Regular exercise and good friends all help to fight depression and anxiety.

Remember to determine your mood, especially before eating. Develop interesting hobbies that take your mind off food. Try to plan your meals each day. Take regular walks throughout your day. And remember, when you blow your diet, don’t beat yourself up. Tomorrow is another day!
The fascinating houses of Ming and Qing dynasties in Xuzhou are built with brick and wood, and the floors are paved with stone slabs. The walls of the houses were built thick enough to keep the inhabitants cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

They also have their own unique markings. Stones and wood were used to decorate the houses. In front of each house is a stone door guard. In other parts of China, you might see a stone lion sculpture. But in Hubu this is rare. It’s usually a stone drum or box. The stone drum indicates that a grand hall was nearby. These drums would have been seen at the front gates of government offices, while the stone boxes symbolize intelligence and wealth and would have been found at the entrances to merchants houses. Brick carvings are also distinctive decorative markings that could be found over the inte-rior gates. Words like “luck”, “prosperity” and “longevity” were most often seen.

Tour guide, Qi Dongmei, told the visitors: “The roofs of the houses at the Hubu Hill settlement are flat in the middle and they gradually rise up gracefully at either end of the roof. The line of a roof should be smooth. It is a combination of architectural styles from both the north and south China. Some of the important houses are adorned with carved birds on each side of roof. If the mouth of the animal or swallow is open, it means that the house owner was successful and enjoyed a high reputation. Otherwise, the mouth is normally closed.”

Traditional constructions always follow a particular architectural style, and are arranged according to a cen- tral line. But this is not the case with these buildings. The houses in Hubu are arranged in the shape of a pyramid according to the social status of the house owner. The royal palace is located at the top of the hill, further down the slope you find the monastery, below that are the houses of the senior court officials, and further down the houses of the middle class. At the foot of the hill are the houses of the shop owners. The houses are mainly constructed in the shape of a courtyard shape and there’s no set number of houses contained within the courtyards. It all depended on the wealth of the owner, and his rank as well. For example, the Yu family was a family of wealthy tea merchants and their courtyard is one of the eight largest on Hubu Hill. It has over one hundred houses, and all have been restored to their original beauty.

Entering the family’s biggest reception room, facing the door is a long table, which was used for official work. Positioned in front of the table is a smaller round table which would have been used to entertain guests. On either side of the room, are old fashioned armchairs. All the furniture was made of wood. A big palace lantern hangs from the ceiling.

Qi Dongmei told us that this was an impor-tant room, it’s where many of the important family activities would have taken place, such as wed-dings and sacrificial offering ceremonies. Strict rules of conduct would have been observed whilst inside the room: the master of the house always entered and left the room through the east side of the door, while the servants only used the west side of the door. According to local custom, people worshipped the east and, when an important ceremony was held, the host would enter a room from the east.

Seven generations of the Yu family inhabited the courtyard and each generation added its own buildings to the original site. If you visit today you’ll see the courtyard’s two gardens, one in the east and one in the west, several bedrooms, a kitchen, a stable, servants’ rooms and tearooms. The main bedroom is in the east side of the house. The most senior member of the family, the grand-father would have occupied this room. And the son would have used the west room of the house on the same floor. After the grandfather’s death, his eldest son would move to his father’s room, and take over a more decisive role on family affairs.

It’s interesting to see how people lived in that pe-riod, but it’s a world away from what happens now. In order to preserve this glimpse of the past, the Yu court-yard has become part of the local folk museum. It not only showcases what ancient houses in this area were like, but one can also see some of the traditional agricultural tools that were used such as ploughs, harrows, spinning wheels, looms and stone mills. There’s even a recon-structed scene of a tradi-tional local wedding cere-mony, as well as local painting and handicrafts. Indeed, it was surprising to see such a wonderfully preserved example of ancient architecture. We can see how the people of the Ming and Qing dynasties lived and worked. It’s a really fascinating place to visit.

It’s really wonderful that only CRI can give the best reports on Asian nations. Voices From Other Lands and People in the Know are the two most important programs after News and Reports. Also, I enjoy the great Messenger, which helps me read and see for myself after listening to CRI programs.

Bala Usman Takum, Nigeria (see photo above)

Over the last few years, I have noticed an increase in short-wave activity of China Radio Inter-na-tional in the United States. The strength and quality of your radio programs have improved sub-stantially. I have noticed larger diplomatic missions to the US. I notice much younger faces in Chinese news and govern-ment. I see better social and economic ties developing between you and the rest of the world. I listen to your station daily.

Ed Dramer, US

I am especially interested in your Wednesday forum of China Horizon, and I hardly ever miss one program. China Horizon is a “must” to anyone who is interested in discovering the real China. Besides, I have a good chance to read your bi-monthly issue of The Messenger. My brother used to be a loyal listener of yours and it was very kind of you to send him the newspaper regularly so that I could share my love of China with him. He used to be a good policeman, named Bui Anh Tuan. Unfortu-nately, he was killed when catching drug criminals recently. I was very upset, but before his death he had told me to contact you and he hoped that if I continued to listen to CRI regularly, I promised to carry on his will, and I hope that we will contact each other regularly. You were a part of my brother’s life and I highly appreciate that.

Bui Anh Tuan, Vietnam

I was interested in the recent programme in which you discussed distance learning and I tried to email for details of the Chinese online courses mentioned, but have not yet heard from there. I must say there are now so many Chinese in Cambridge that one can hear Chinese spoken in the streets any day. It makes the world seem a lot smaller.

Francis Durrant, U.K.

I have been a regular listener of your Tamil Service through the past 15 years. Sometimes I also listen to the English Service for cultural programs and traditional music. The Tamil Service recently started a new program How to Make Chinese Food. It’s very interesting. The program presents very helpful information on how to cook Chinese food.

V. T. Ravichandran, India (see photo below)
Playing with the Rabbit God

Whenever I get asked what my happiest moment is as the host of "Today's Tibet", I always reply without hesitation that it is the listeners' letters that give me the most pleasure.

At a time when we celebrate the 6th anniversary of the program's launch, I am always deeply moved when I receive letters, greetings, and beautiful gifts from the audience. Apart from words of praise and salutations, our listeners often write in saying the program has served as a real eye opener for outsiders.

Chairman Rakesh Roshan of the Ashirwad Listeners' Club in India's Bihar State wrote: "In the blink of an eye, "Today's Tibet" is six years old. All club members would like to offer their greetings in the hope that the program will continue to help more people gain a deeper understanding of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners. News media in some parts of the world are biased in their coverage of Tibet and often misleading to listeners.

In those days, women had to look after the kids even when they were worshipping. To keep the children quiet while they were praying, a clay figure of a rabbit god was used to distract them.

"Rabbit God," or "Tuer ye" in Chinese, was a clay figure worshipped during the Mid-Autumn Festival in old Beijing and Tianjin. The festival falls on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month. Worshipping the moon was originally a custom practiced by the imperial family in China. Officials followed the trend and later on so did the common people. During the Ming Dynasty (AD1368-AD1644), the Mid-Autumn Festival was a major holiday that was celebrated nationwide.

The practice of worshipping the rabbit god came about in the capital during the later part of the Ming Dynasty. According to the old custom in Beijing, men could not worship the moon god and women could not offer sacrifices to the kitchen god. On Mid-Autumn Festival night, women would place a memorial table on a table along with other offerings, usually fruit. The tablet was actually a piece of yellow paper with a painting of the moon goddess, her palace on the moon and her rabbit. According to Chinese legend, a goddess lived on the moon together with her medicine pounding rabbit.

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For the 6th birthday of "Today's Tibet" Program in CRI's Hindi Language Service

"Today's Tibet" has enjoyed great support from Tibetans. Over the last 6 years, I have interviewed over a hundred Tibetans, whose cooperation has played a big part in the success of the program.

Recently, seven Tibetan students from a Tibet Middle School in Beijing visited CRI. Commenting on their trip, Jinmijongdan wrote: "The tour helped me understand the history of CRI. I feel particularly happy that CRI has friends and listeners all over the world. CRI and its staff surely deserve credit for bringing China to the world, and helping the world learn about China. I would therefore like to offer my greetings to my uncles and aunts here. I was particularly impressed to find that "Today's Tibet" has revealed to the world the past and present of the region and brought my homeland closer to the global audience. I sincerely wish the program all the best."

Following the tour, the students made a studio recording for the radio series "Today's Tibet". They have our hearts," which aired in August to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the school. The radio series was launched in 1995. Tibetan students brought listeners to their hometown and shared with them the changes taking place amidst the singing of folk songs. The new creation is a return in kind for all the care and support our listeners have shown to "Today's Tibet."

To conclude my writing, I would like to say to you Zhaxiade, which in the Tibetan language means "Good luck!"