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2022 National Science Popularization Day Special Issue

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What is National Science Popularization Day?

On June 29, 2002, China officially adopted the Law of the People's Republic of China on Popularization of Science and Technology. On June 29, 2003, to mark the one-year anniversary of the law and to raise awareness about the law's importance, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) launched a series of popular science events which eventually snowballed into National Science Popularization Day. Starting in 2005, all celebrations were moved from June 29 to the third week in September

to better engage young students at the start of the school year. Various events have since been organized every year across China to observe National Science Popularization Day.

2022 National Science Popularization Day

CAST President Wan Gang attends the kickoff of 2022 National Science Popularization Day celebrations in Beijing

On September 19, 2022, celebrations for the National Science Popularization Day kicked off at the China Science and Technology Museum in Beijing. Wan Gang, President of CAST, and Zhang Yuzhuo, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of CAST, attended the event.

In his speech, Wan Gang



Law of the People's Republic of China on Popularization of Science and Technology

highlighted the significance of comprehensively improving people's science literacy in achieving China's technological independence. He called for new efforts to spread the scientist spirit, encourage everyone to pursue dreams in science, and foster ideal conditions for innovations to thrive.

Wan stressed that with the advances of science and technology, the demand for quality science services is growing. More efforts should be made to disseminate high-quality science knowledge in communities and rural areas. Science popularization workers should act as the intermediary and catalyst to move the work forward.

Over 50,000 popular science events open during 2022 China National Science Popularization Day

On September 15, China



Kids interacting with the exhibits



In Chongqing, a mom helps her child play a defense-themed science game.

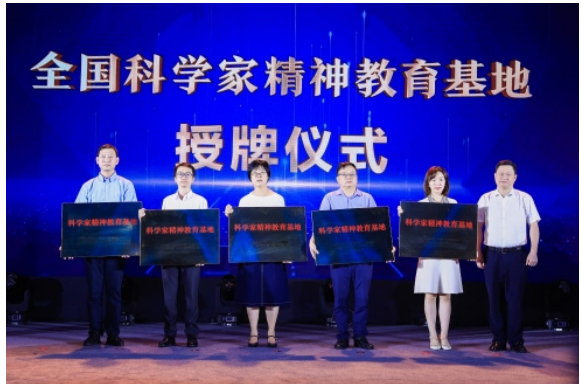


A museum guide explains exhibits related to China's aerospace program to young students at Baise Science and Technology Museum in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

started 2022 National Science Popularization Day festivities with a week of popular science celebrations. Over 50,000 events were organized nationwide for the public, led by the Beijing Science Carnival in the capital Beijing, celebrations at provincial levels, and various virtual events.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to see the return capsule of the Shenzhou-13 manned spacecraft at close range, watch how China's self-developed "Deep Sea No. 1" energy station completes installation of its equipment and produces oil, and observe growth of eggplants bred from seeds that were taken into space. This year, a slew of awe-inspiring new technologies are on display to highlight the importance and relevance of science in society. "Science popularization is a powerful tool to improve people's science literacy," said Wang

Ting, director of the China Research Institute for Science Popularization. "It propels the creation, dissemination, and application of science and technology and ultimately affects all aspects of social production." As China's economy becomes more digital, internet-driven, and smart, Wang Ting said it is essential to adopt new ways to raise public understanding of science, improve public communication of research projects, and let tech innovations, science popularization, tech applications and education inform each other and co-develop in a more cohesive manner.



Journée nationale de vulgarisation scientifique de Hangzhou

"Science popularization is a powerful tool to improve people's science literacy," said Wang Ting, director of the China Research Institute for Science Popularization. "It propels the creation, dissemination, and application of science and technology and ultimately affects all aspects of social production." As China's economy becomes more digital, internet-driven, and smart, Wang Ting said it is essential to adopt new ways to raise public understanding of science, improve public communication of research projects, and let tech innovations, science popularization, tech applications and education inform each other and co-develop in a more cohesive manner.

Jiangsu Province hosted the first national youth science talk show which featured contestants explaining science concepts in innovative and fun ways. At Shanghai Botanical Garden, visitors picked up knowledge of the rare and endangered trees through augmented reality games. In Tianjin, the city's tallest skyscraper, the Tianjin Radio and Television Tower, was lit up in a dazzling light show for national science popularization day. This year's events embraced many new features and drew an enthusiastic response from participants.



Science show titled "Gaze into the sky – astronomical endeavors in the past century"



A science popularization caravan simulating the interior of a space station

Highlights of National Science Popularization Day celebrations in Beijing

From China's state-of-the-art technologies to daily gadgets, science and technology has profoundly impacted life in the country. Here are a few highlights of celebrations held at the China Science and Technology Museum and the Beijing Science Center.

Virtual reality panda habitat tour

At the China Science and Technology Museum, the most popular attraction was a virtual reality booth where visitors were invited to experience an immersive panda habitat and watch an adult female panda and her cub frolic in the woods through a VR headset.

China officially designated Sanjiangyuan, the tropical rainforest in Hainan, and Wuyi Mountain as the coun-

try's first national parks in October 2021 to protect the habitats of pandas, Amur tigers and leopards, Tibetan antelopes, and other flora and fauna. Earlier this year, the China Science and Technology Museum opened a dedicated space on its premises to tell stories of China's nature protection efforts. The exhibits, spanning the tropical rainforest, the temperate coniferous and broad-leaved mixed forest, Wuyi Mountain, and the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, gave visitors a renewed appreciation of China's biodiversity.

Shenzhou-13 return capsule on display

From September 15 to 21, 2022, the return capsule of the Shenzhou-13 manned spacecraft went on display as part of the Beijing Science Carnival at the Beijing Science Center. It was the first public appearance for the capsule since its touchdown in April this year. It awed visitors with its intricate design

and demonstrated the progress of China's manned space and space station programs.

Among those who visited the spacecraft was Zhang Qiyue, a local primary school student, who came with his parents.

"I watched the return of Shenzhou-13 livestreamed on my mobile phone," he marveled. "It was amazing to see the very capsule that brought back the three astronauts."

Event Highlights

Over 100 original scientist manuscripts on display



The Exhibition "Chinese Scientists Through Their Manuscripts"

On September 15, 2022, the China Science and Technology Museum launched a special exhibition titled "Chinese Scientists Through Their Manuscripts," as part of the celebrations for 2022 National Science

Popularization Day.

The exhibition displayed original manuscripts, diaries, notes, letters, and illustrations by more than 100 scientists that were meticulously collected and preserved by the China Scientist Academic Database Project. Many were opened to the public for the first time.

Themed around love, the exhibits traced the history of scientific development in China and revealed the personal stories of many famous Chinese scientists. Some shed light on the key moments of their scientific discoveries, some recorded the scientists' reflections on their work and life, while others expressed hope and expectations for China's younger generation. They bore witness to the significant contributions these scientists had made to the country, their devotion to the scientific cause and their confidence in the future of China.

Chinese Scientists take the stage on 2022 National Science Popularization Day

On the afternoon of September 17, 2022, the Shanghai Science Hall held a special solo concert, performed not by a musician or a pop artist, but by a female scientist. She was among the select few to showcase versatile talent on stage at this year's National Science Popularization Day.

The singer, Zeng Fanyi, is a distinguished professor and director of the Institute of Medical Genetics at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Born into a scientist family, she became not only an exceptional scientist like her parents, but also an accomplished piano player, singer, and composer. She had previously performed in similar concerts and chose to wear a white dress to sing an original composition. According

to Zeng, being a scientist does not confine her to toiling away in a research lab all day. Future society needs people who can strike a balance between profession and hobbies and integrate various perspectives and skills.

Like Zeng Fanyi, Wei Dunshan, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a famous architectural design expert, also took the stage in celebration of National Science Popularization Day.

The 89-year-old scientist sang a well-known excerpt from "Four Titled Scholars" alongside Shang Changrong, a renowned Peking Opera artist. Wei designed many landmark sports facilities in Shanghai. After graduating from Tongji University in 1955, he started to work at the Shanghai Architectural Design & Research Institute. Even at his age, he still works in his office every day.

An avid fan of Peking Opera, Wei watched many Peking Opera performances as a kid. “I fell in love with Peking Opera when I was about 10 years old,” he reminisced. He also developed fondness for the masks. The personalities and the lines from the masks have given him many design inspirations. He recognizes that most scientists have hobbies in art and sports, just like everyone else. Art and science are not as polarized as they seem. It is possible to enjoy the best of what each has to offer.

“Art is best spread and communicated through the help of science,” added Shang Changrong, the 82-year-old Peking Opera master, “I’ve spent my whole life performing the role of “painted face” in Peking Opera. I had the pleasure to appear in four films featuring Peking Opera from 2008 to 2018. Three of them were shot with the 3D panoramic

technology. Technology has breathed new life into this traditional art-form and made it more accessible to people from all over the world.”

Chinese top scientists reveal secrets of success

On this year’s National Science Popularization Day, a few scientists shared their formulas for success with the public. According to Chu Junhao, a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and researcher at the Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics of the CAS, “The greatest joy of scientific research is to see your efforts translate into something bigger than yourself and to feel the happiness brought by every bit of progress.”

Chu, now in his seventies, still leads his students to track the latest developments in physics every day. The rapid advances in science make learning all the frontier

concepts and methods immediately essential. As he sees it, all of us, including students in primary schools, middle schools, colleges and graduate schools, civil servants, and businessmen, need some science and technology knowledge, no matter how old we are or what we do. “Science makes us smarter and helps us think in a methodological way,” said Chu.

What are the qualities of a good scientist? He Zuhua, a scientist at the Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences of the CAS, shared a few tips. First, scientists are always curious. They cannot look at research like a job, but something worthy of a big investment of their passion. Second, they must build an arsenal of knowledge to understand the most important concepts while maintaining familiarity with the newest developments in their line of research. They also need to be equipped with the

know-how of research methods. This will give them a head start in the game. Third, scientists must be very patient to endure years of work

and rounds of experiments to reach a goal set much earlier, particularly in basic science, because there is no shortcut in scientific research. Last-

ly, teamwork is critical, and only a scientist with a qualified team will make great discoveries.

CAST is the largest non-governmental organization of scientific and technological professionals in the world. Through its 211 member societies and local branches all over the country, CAST maintains close ties with millions of Chinese scientists, engineers, and other professionals working in fields of science and technology.

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