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Evolution from Beijing Botanical Garden to National Botanical Garden

On December 28, 2021, China's State Council approved the establishment of the National Botanical Garden based on the work of Beijing Botanical Garden and the Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Its predecessor is the Beijing Botanical Garden. In 1954, 10 young scientists wrote to the central government, proposing to establish a botanical garden in Beijing. Their proposal was approved by the central leadership and the State Council. From 1957 to 1960, botanists and workers started the journey for botanic garden construction on a barren river bank. From 1961 to 1978, after botanists' arduous efforts in seed collection, introduction, domestication breeding and cultivation, the garden has blossomed into a full-fledged facility. After the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC, it developed by leaps and bounds. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, it has materialized Xi Jinping's Thought on Ecological Civilization, and ushered to the National Botanical garden which carries the aspirations of several generations' botanists.

Shenyang Botanical Garden: The Noah's Ark of Flora in the North

Shenyang Botanical Garden is the one with the largest collections of plant species in the northeast region, which is known as the Noah's Ark of plants in the north. The geographical conditions suitable for plant cultivation and domestication, the hundred-year old villages and thousand-year old roads, the "Fenghai Railway" independently built by the people of Northeast China, the Fengtian Botanical Research Institute and foremost botanists like Liu Shen have built Shenyang Botanical Garden towards best national botanical gardens of Northeast Asia under the concept of harmonious man-nature coexistence.

Wuhan Botanical Garden: Building a Chinese Mode for Biodiversity Conservation

Wuhan Botanical Garden under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), as one of the three key botanical gardens for scientific research in China, has been committed to its own motto of truth-seeking, exploration, pioneering and innovating. With an ambition to serve both China and the world, it strives to build a "Chinese mode" for biodiversity conservation, and fulfill the functions to conserve lucid water and lush mountains, develop ecological civilization, provide sci-tech aid to Africa, contribute to national strategic science and lead science popularization.

44 文明回眸 | Civilization Glimpse

Dongshu Botanical Garden: the Last Surviving Ancient Botanical Garden in China

Ancient Chinese botanic gardens can be traced back to Shennong Herb Garden, which was built in 2800 BC. About 200 years ago, Dongshu Botanical Garden was established in 1822 by Wu Qijun a Number One Scholar from Henan in the Qing Dynasty. It is located in Wu's hometown, near the geographical boundary between the north and the south of China. Wu, who had been passionate about plants since his childhood, wrote the first Chinese monograph of flora "Illustrated Catalogue of Plants". Dongshu Botanical Garden, making Wu renowned for the only scholar botanist has imposed a profound impact on the development of botany in China and even in the world.

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Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in My View

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, boasting a history of 350 years is among the top ten in the world in terms of living plant collection. It also gains its name as the foreign botanical garden that collects the most Chinese wild plants. The garden is composed of 4 independent yet complementary parks, including one main park and three satellite parks, and its neat design has implication on the decision-makers of the National Botanic Garden in Beijing. Its herbarium, built in the 19th century, is the third largest in the world, as the home to three million specimens from 91% of the world's countries.

Spatial Narrative in Botanical Landscape of Butchart Gardens

Butchart Gardens is a private garden located in Victoria City of Canada, and it is also a well-known national historical site in Canada. Built on an abandoned mining site, the Gardens is a model of ecological restoration, conveying the strong value and meaning of life based on its historical heritage and cultural narratives. This paper dissects the social value and cultural function of Butchart Gardens from the perspective of spatial narrative and reviews the languages and cultural expressions of spatial narrative in its botanical landscape, so as to help readers understand and appreciate this century-old gardens.

Niger along the BRI Routes: A "Kingdom of Sand" at the Southern Tip of the Sahara Desert

Niger is a large country in Africa, with an area as large as one eighth of China. Mired in extreme poverty, Niger has been actively involved in the BRI Initiative. The authors share their own life experience in Niger for more than a year, who witnessed China becoming the largest investor and the second largest trading partner of Niger. China's aid to Niger in the fields of communication, energy, transportation, medicine, economy and trade has made Niger one of countries with great development potential in the world.

76 美丽乡村 | Beautiful Countryside

Rugao Bonsai: A New Engine of Rural Revitalization in the New Era

Rugao Bonsai budded in the Song Dynasty and flourished in the Ming and Qing dynasties. Well-known for its elegant shapes, it has been hailed as "the capital of Chinese bonsai" at home and abroad. When China is pursuing rural revitalization, Rugao Bonsai is breaking away from its previous extensive and fragmented business model to efficient, standardized and innovation-driven development. The village has vigorously developed bonsais of all sizes to cater to consumers of varied demands. Like a well-oiled machine, Rugao Village is striving for revitalizing the beautiful countryside and paving the way for the common prosperity of the people.

Guzhuang: A Village of Poetic Gardens

Guzhuang Bonsai enjoys a history of over 1000 years. It is not exaggerated that every household here has a garden. Guzhuang is home to nearly 200 senior farmer horticulturists, while native bonsai masters like Wang Guangming win their names. There are more than 400 botanical varieties, more than 25 million valuable flowers and trees, and more than 1.5 million bonsai pots. Its prize-winning gardening products have been seen in markets nationwide and exported to more than ten countries and regions. Guzhuang has been awarded the 30-plus national and provincial honors, including "National Civilized Village" and "National Ecological Village". It is a pioneer and model in revitalizing the rural areas through developing the bonsai sector.

90 文化采撷 | Cultural Highlights

Combination of Art and Nature

Everything in nature is an excellent element of artistic creation. Since ancient times, nature has been inseparable from art. In numerous immortal masterpieces of art, nature is interpreted in a myriad of ways. For instance, ancient Chinese artists have developed a unique system of landscape painting; meanwhile, their western counterparts have pioneered a different system like oil paints to render nature to the fullest. Both have captured the artistic vitality of nature; in return, art has enriched works of art with ecological values.