

NGOs to voice their views louder

Environmentalists seek to change misconception in Johannesburg

By YU NAN
China Daily staff

Chinese environmental non-government organizations (NGOs) are determined to make themselves more audible in Johannesburg. More than 100 world leaders including Premier Zhu Rongji are expected to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development, being held in South Africa from today to next Wednesday.

China is sending an 18-member delegation of environmental non-government organizations (NGOs) workers.

The Johannesburg summit is considered a milestone for China because it marks the environmentalists' debut on the international stage with a common voice.

Since the first registered environmental NGO — Friends of Nature — was founded in Beijing in 1994, the non-profit sector in China has grown significantly and has done much to raise awareness nationwide about environmental protection.

But their voice remained weak at various international meetings in recent years, "partly because we had no experience playing the game on the world stage," said Liao Xiaoyi, president and founder of the Global Village of Beijing, one of China's leading environmental NGOs. "Another reason is that people in other countries think China's NGOs are made up of people who actually work in government, so they don't arrange seats for us."

"One of our key missions is to change this bias and let the world know that real NGOs do exist in China and are doing and have done a lot of effective work."

Strong voice

Liao was born in 1954 in Sichuan Province and eventually graduated from Sichuan University.

In 1995, Liao began to develop television programmes for China Central Television about protecting the environment.

She directed "Environment

and China" and "Environmental Time," which together attracted more than 150 million Chinese viewers.

Liao, regarded as one of the pioneers in environmental protection in China, won the Sophie Award, one of the largest and most significant environment awards in the world, in 2000.

She has attended many international meetings since the Global Village of Beijing was founded in 1996, but none of them excited her as much as the upcoming South Africa summit.

"We have looked forward to this day for a long time," Liao said.

Dozens of environmental NGOs were set up across China after the Friends of Nature was founded by Liang Congjie, a retired professor.

But there was hardly any contact between them until they jointly hosted a nationwide programme "Earth Day 2000 — China Action."

About 300,000 environmental survey cards were distributed across China and those returned so far indicate that more than 70,000 people have promised to adopt an environment-friendly lifestyle, Liao said.

But this united action is not enough to gain recognition on the international stage.

The Johannesburg summit is expected to be another opportunity for the Chinese NGOs engaged in environmental protection work to build up good links between themselves and join hands to make themselves known to their counterparts in the world.

Eleven environmental NGOs will represent China from all parts of the country.

The delegates come from Beijing and Hebei Province in North China, Southwest China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, East China's Jiangsu and Shandong provinces and Northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

"The size of our organizations are still small and most of us don't have experience attending world gatherings," said Wu



Making friends with the Earth: The Chinese delegation members of environmental non-government organizations gather in Beijing before departing for Johannesburg, which starts today in Johannesburg. Among them are Liao Xiaoyi (centre front), Wu Dengming (front 3rd from left) and Wang



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Dengming, head of Chongqing's Green Volunteer League.

At 62-years-old, Wu is the eldest member of China's delegation to the South Africa summit.

He has been involved in environmental protection work for more than 10 years and his organization, founded in 1995, is known for its protection of virgin forests in western Sichuan Province, helping to keep the ecological conditions of the upper reaches of the Yangtze River intact.

"China's large population and rapid economic growth will affect the future of the world," Wu said. "We are doing a lot of environmental research and education work on the front line so that our voice cannot be ignored."

Environmental protection meetings at the Globe Village of Beijing, the delegation decided to make water its most urgent issue.

Other agenda items include sustainable development, rural

development, poverty reduction, environmental problems had aroused public support for protection activities.

Wang, who will attend the summit, said she hoped it could lead to a closer interaction with the Chinese Government.

Chinese NGOs say they need to explore more channels to voice their opinions to the government and to share their knowledge of environmental situations in society.

"We want to monitor pollution for the government's legal enforcement arm, while contributing to policy-making," Wang said.

"We would be a good partner and a bridge between the government and the public."

Liao said NGO workers were going to the summit to share their experiences with groups from other countries, in addition to getting a clearer picture of the next 10-year plan for promoting sustainable development in China.

WHAT'S ON

Acrobatic Show

Chaoyang Theatre is a theatre which specializes in acrobatics all the year round. Many top acrobatic artists from all over the country are invited to perform for the Chinese and foreign tourists.

Venue: Chaoyang Theatre, 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Time: 7:15 pm, nightly Telephone: 6507-2421, 6507-1818

Kung Fu Show

The 90-minute performance displays dazzling skills of mysterious Chinese kung fu in a hero-plus-beauty story. Fifty kung fu masters amaze the audience with bare-handed practice, one-to-one competing and weapons practice.

Time/dates: 19:30, nightly

Venue: Xin Rong Theatre (16 Baizhifang Road, Xuanwu District)

Presented by Beijing Dectan Shunyi Culture Development Co., Ltd.

Tel: 8354-0774, 8354-0775

STAGE

Army story: A newly created drama about the life of army men in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) will be staged by the Drama Troupe of the PLA Air Force Political Department.

The play, titled "Soldiers and Men, Logical Thinking and Contradiction," tells about an accident during a mock battle and different characters' ideas about how to handle it.

Time: 7:15 pm until August 27

Place: Capital Theatre

Tel: 6505-0123

Social thinking: After a number of controversial experimental plays, dramatist Zhang Guangtian's latest creation again aroused various comments from audiences and critics when it was staged in Guangzhou in May.

Now the play "Sage Confucius," presented by Guangzhou Drama Theatre, is coming to Beijing.

Although it is about the ancient figure Confucius, the play is not done in period costume. It is about Chinese people's different attitudes towards and their understanding of Confucianism in different times.

Time: 7:15 pm until September 1, except Mondays

Place: Small playhouse of Beijing People's Art Theatre

Tel: 6525-0123

Kirov back: The Kirov Ballet from the Mariinsky Theatre will bring the original "Swan Lake" to Beijing ballet lovers in September.

The Mariinsky Ballet Company is closely linked with the entire history of the development of Russian choreographic art, which began more than

majoring in Monkey King performance.

Time: 7:30 pm, daily

Place: Zhengyici Theatre

Tel: 1362-119-5714

Ming-style theatre: The Liyuan Theatre presents traditional Peking Opera excerpts specially packaged in short programmes for foreign audiences in its original style.

The theatre revives the ambience of old Beijing by setting up Ming-style tables that enable guests to sample snacks during the performances.

With an interpretation in English, the performances are from the Beijing Peking Opera Theatre.

Time: 7:30 pm daily

Place: Qianmen Hotel, 175 Yong'an Lu, Xuanwu District

Tel: 6301-6688 ext 8867

CONCERTS

Opening concert: The China Philharmonic Orchestra will give a concert next week to start its 2002-03 season. The orchestra will play French composer Hector Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique" and the overture from his opera "Benvenuto Cellini" under the baton of Artistic Director Yu Long.

Time: 7:30 pm, August 27

Place: Poly Theatre

Tel: 6506-5343, 6506-5345

Violin virtuoso: Grammy Award winner Itzhak Perlman is set to come to Beijing.

Born in Tel Aviv, Perlman has been regarded as a great talent since his early years in the Juilliard Music Conservatory.

At his Great Hall of the People concert, Perlman will play Beethoven's works, including Symphony No. 8, and Violin Concerto in D minor, accompanied by the China Philharmonic Orchestra.

Time: 7:30 pm, August 29

Place: The Great Hall of the People, to the west of Tian'anmen Square

Tel: 13621293454, 13910131973

Afro-Chinese music: South African musicians will present a concert together with a chamber ensemble of students from the Central Conservatory of Music, under the direction of Japanese conductor Naotaka Maejima. The evening will not only be a platform for cultural exchange between musicians from the East and West, but the Western string instruments will be used with Chinese traditional instruments. Works to be performed are Bach's

Charming c

from the country, Jingdezhen in Jiangxi Province, are on art Museum.

China ceramic dating back 3,500 years. Once daily people, china aesthetic role Jingdezhen has of china ideal soil and

The exhibit of modern craft

Beautiful goods

in capital, Province, are on art Museum.

China ceramic dating back 3,500 years. Once daily people, china aesthetic role Jingdezhen has of china ideal soil and

The exhibit of modern craft

Art Museum

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The exhibit of modern craft

China and gives an insight into the modern industry. Another 50 antique items from individual collections are also showcased.

Time: 9 am-6 pm until August 28

Place: 9 Huzhong Lu

Tel: 6491-2902

Mysterious culture: A total of 33 precious historical relics of the mysterious Xixia Kingdom from 800 years ago are being showcased at the National Library of China.

The special exhibition features the cultural vestiges of the Xixia Kingdom, a great power in Northwest China between the 11th and 13th centuries. It created and developed its own culture, but left few traces after it collapsed. The exhibition maps out a vision of what the vanished culture used to be like.

Time: 9 am-5 pm until August 31

Place: 33 Zhongguancun Dajie

Tel: 6841-5566

Ancient treasures: A high-level antique exhibition is on at the Museum of Chinese History.

The exhibits are ancient treasures unearthed in Inner Mongolia during the past 50 years. Most of them date from the Liao Dynasty (916-1125), a civilization founded by the nomadic Khitan people. A total of 204 antiques are displayed and categorized into five parts focusing on funeral customs, harness and hunting gear, everyday utensils, clothing and religious beliefs.

Time: 9 am-5 pm until October 10

Place: East side of Tian'anmen Square

Tel: 6512-8321

Dali again: The imaginative art works of Spanish artist Salvador Dali are again on show in Beijing at the China Millennium Monument.

Entitled "Rhapsodic Journey," the exhibition will highlight 370 pieces including paintings, sculptures and furniture. It will present three themes — dreamland, religion and women. People are allowed to touch some of the exhibits to get a true feel.

Time: 9 am-5 pm until October 15

Place: 9A Fuxing Lu

Tel: 6853-0257

Fab or fake?: The Palace Museum is staging an exhibition with a difference. Around 120 paintings from the museum's collection will be displayed — along with duplicates. Viewers will be shown how to tell the difference.

Time: 9 am-4 pm until October 30

Place: 4 Jingshan Qianjie

Tel: 8511-7329

TODAY'S RADIO

FM 87.6 MHz (all stereo)	13:30 Concert Hall	21:30 World Movie Soundtrack
16:30 Music Online	14:30 Health Club	AM 828 kHz
21:00 Liyuan Theatre	22:05 Life Hotlines	15:00 Around Russia
FM 97.4 MHz (all stereo)	AM 603 kHz	18:00 New Sound of Modern City
15:00 Around Russia	10:00 Community & Life	19:00 World Chart Show
18:00 New Sound of Modern City	18:00 Travel Guide	
21:00 World Chart Show	20:10 English pop songs	

TODAY'S TELEVISION

CCTV-1 Channel 2	10:23 Tell It As It Is	21:47 Jiayi Drama
13:05 Oriental Horizon	16:40 Science Review	22:42 Midnight Theatre: Roaring Wild (8)
19:00 News; Weather	20:05 18-part serial: Missile Commander (18)	CCTV-9
21:25 Man and Nature	22:54 Advertising Festival	10:30 Focus Today
CCTV-2 Channel 8	10:30 Road to Health	19:00 World Wide Watch
12:50 Golden Land	15:30 Shopping	21:30 Centre Stage
17:05 China Market Update	19:30 China Business News	BTV-1 Channel 6
20:00 Life	20:40 Net Age	11:30 Beijing Express
21:35 Economy 30 Minutes	22:15 Stock Market Today	12:30 Capital Economy Report
CCTV-3 Channel 15	11:20 Wonderful Time	17:25 Stock Market
17:40 Behind the Scenes	18:03 Studio Express	19:53 Serial: Fighting at Wuling Mountain (7)
19:30 Stage	21:35 Art Scope	21:45 Focus Today
CCTV-4 Channel 32	11:20 Chinese Medicine	22:36 Hello the World
17:50 About Taiwan	18:30 English programme: Focus Today	23:14 Fashion Gallery
19:30 Chinese Arts	20:30 Across the Straits	BTV-2 Channel 21
21:30 China Report	CCTV-6 Channel 18	14:28 Culture-Beijing
10:09 Movie: Forget-me-not	11:50 Memorable Moments	15:08 Let's Talk About the Past
12:24 China Movies Report	18:33 Animation Theatre	18:07 MTV
19:45 Movie: Our Niu Baisui	22:03 European Theatre: French/Italian movie	21:48 Dream's Come True
CCTV-8 Channel 29	11:05 Around the World	BTV-3 Channel 27
16:45 World Screen	17:35 TV and Movie Club	15:55 Beijing Hotline
19:00 World Culture Square		17:35 26-part serial: Goodbye My Love (22)
		18:54 Discovery Channel
		19:30 Science and Technology
		20:05 Beijing Suburb
		23:35 Legal Times
		BTV-4 Channel 17
		09:24 Weekend Cinema: Bachelor
		12:00 Serial: Netizen's Diary (18)
		13:35 Serial: Flaming Hearts II (17-20)
		18:00 630 Theatre: Forty-something Men (1)
		18:35 Chinese Disc Wire
		19:10 Entertainment Live
		21:36 Serial: Cherish (17, 18)
		BTV-7 Channel 24
		12:35 Specialist Clinic
		19:35 Modern Time
		20:30 Luxury & Elegance
		21:05 Fashion Gallery
		21:40 Estate in 21st Century

BRIDGE (By Phillip Alder)

Last time, I gave a deal featuring a Dentist's Coup, in which declarer removed an opponent's safe exit cards before that opponent — West — could receive a ruff. Then, West had to make a return favourable for the declarer. This deal is similar, but not identical. How would you try to make two spades after West leads the heart jack?

Now become the responder for a moment. Your partner opens with one of a suit, and the next player makes a takeout double. What do your new-suit bids mean?

It is normal in this country to play that a new-suit response at the one-level is forcing for one round, but at the two-level is nonforcing. Here, North was happy to have that agreement. Two clubs would have made comfortably, losing two diamonds and three clubs, but South — a contract hog — rebid his six-card suit.

Declarer won the first trick with dummy's heart queen, cashed the spade ace, returned to hand with a heart, and continued with the king and 10 of spades. East won with the queen and did well, cashing the club king, then shifting to the diamond 10. West, after taking two diamond tricks, cashed

the club ace, on which East discarded his last heart. Taking the hint, West led another heart, which East refused to defeat the contract.

If only South were a dentist, or had thought about the coup, or had counted his tricks when the dummy was tabled, he would have cashed his third heart winner before leading the spade 10. Then he would have been assured of five spade and three heart tricks.

CROSSWORD (No 6678)

ACROSS

- Spoil
- Dugout VIP
- Of grand proportions
- Mild cheese
- Caveman Alley
- TV's Warrior Princess
- Verne's skipper
- Comedian — DeLuise
- "Aquarius" musical
- Closed
- Bad-tempered
- de guerre
- Mouse
- alternative
- Dianne of "Parenthood"
- Razed
- Shade tree
- Tire support
- Wyo. neighbor
- Worked clay
- Panama port
- Doze off
- Here's partner
- Low voices
- Youthful
- Actress — Petty
- Status —
- Orderly
- Bank
- transaction
- Dawn goddess
- "Pretty Woman" lead
- Mo. bill
- 54 Do batik
- 55 Natural elev.

DOWN

- Cartoon
- Lyric poems
- Unlikely to bite
- Computer device
- Well-behaved
- LP speed
- Let out a sigh
- Green
- veggies
- Put one's foot —
- Late actor
- Ghostly noises
- House site
- Carson City st.
- Rare mineral
- Food steamer
- 24 Fleming or Hunter
- 25 Make do with
- 26 Top
- 27 Capp's — Abner
- 28 Ancient Tokyo
- 29 Actor — Aykroyd
- 31 Valentine colour
- 34 Put oil on
- 35 Hairstyles
- 36 Demure
- 37 In debt
- 39 Rodeo loop
- 40 "— well that foot —"
- 41 Plunder
- 42 Kind of streetcar
- 43 Float
- 44 Look as if
- 45 Playwright
- 47 Theorem
- 49 Numeral X

Solution to No 6677

M	E	T	P	A	R	V	A	N	S
E	Y	R	E	S	U	E	L	I	E
A	N	N	A	I	S	M	N	A	P
R	A	I	L	S	T	I	M	I	D
S	H	E	A	L	E	T	A	D	E
P	R	E	I	R	A	N	R	I	T
P	R	E	F	I	X	B	A	N	N
H	A	M	S	B	U	G	S		
I	M	P	T	R	A	C	E	P	C
I	S	A	A	C	S	P	E	A	K
H	A	R	E	S	K	I	E	A	S
I	T	E	M	P	E	N	C	R	E
D	E	S	I	Y	R	S	L	I	