

Nantong report

Experiencing Chinese New Year

Beijing Opera performance

By Gao Yang

‘The actors’ clothes are very beautiful. How were they made?’ ‘Why different colours were painted on their faces when performing Beijing opera?’ On the afternoon of 11th February, 2nd day of the Chinese New Year, some international students from School of International Education of Nantong Vocational University went to Linggong Society, to feel the charm of excellent traditional Chinese culture. During the explanation of Beijing Opera culture, from the pattern of the make-up, to clothing, and the daily life of actors, the questions of the international students were all answered patiently and in detail.

After the explanation, the international students went on the stage in turns. Guided by the actors, they tried the clothes, wore the Rankou of ‘Bao Gong’, and swung the Ruyi Jingu Bang of ‘Sun Wukong’. They talked and took photos excitedly, and uploaded them to social media platforms. Some talked with their families by video conference, to share the excitement and joy.

‘I enjoyed it.’ Wittenbach Shendeny, an international student from Namibia, said that she has always liked traditional Chinese culture. She watched Chinese Beijing Opera online before, felt that the clothing and make-up of the actors were all very magnificent. She was very glad to experience it herself.

There are 141 international students in Nantong Vocational University. They come from multiple countries including Namibia, Liberia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Pakistan. ‘In this winter holiday, 91 international students stay in Nantong in the school.’ Zhi Mingyuan, a teacher from School of International Education of Nantong Vocational University said that the school prepared activities for them such as eating reunion dinner, experiencing Beijing Opera, and cycling around the mountain.

‘We hope that through various activities, international students can feel the warmth of home and the festive atmosphere of the Chinese New Year.’ Zhi Mingyuan said.

Folk culture of the Lantern Festival

By Xu Peiqin

On 21st February, international students from medicine and biotechnology major of School of Environmental and Biological Engineering of Nantong College of Science and Technology experienced traditional folk culture of the Lantern Festival.

Nantong residents overseas sent best wishes to their hometown

By He Jiayu

Leader of overseas Chinese in the U.S.

Sheng Donglin

In 2023, Yiwo Chinese Food Culture Center was completed, honorarily designated as ‘Nantong overseas Chinese cultural exchange base’ and ‘Nantong Chinese food overseas promotion center’. Recently, ‘Memory of hometown of overseas Chinese • Seeking the taste of Nantong’ Nantong classic Chinese food promotion and tasting activity was held at Yiwo Chinese Food Culture Center. 12 famous catering enterprises from Nantong cooked 12 characteristic dishes imbued with the essence of the Jianghai region, to express



Sheng Donglin

good participant in China’s development, promote the economic and trade cooperation between China and America, bring more funds, technologies, talents and projects to Nantong, to promote the industrial upgrading and economic transformation of Nantong; work actively as a folk envoy of the devel-

the affectionate call to overseas Chinese from Nantong, and added the taste of ‘home’ to the Chinese New Year’s Eve Reunion dinner of overseas Chinese.

In the new year, I plan to open a high-end Chinese restaurant in America, using the cooking method of Nantong cuisine, to create Nantong taste using local ingredients, allowing people around the world feel the unique charm of Jianghai delicacies. At the same time, I will always be a

opment of relationship between China and America, to promote the cultural exchange between Nantong and foreign countries. I will be a storyteller who tells the stories of China and Nantong well, make full use of the fellow association, promote Chinese culture actively, tell the stories of China and Nantong well, and let more Americans get to know China and Nantong.

Leader of overseas Chinese in the United Arab Emirates

Cheng Fuqiang

Looking back on 2023, there have been a lot of achievements. I organized and participated actively in large theme events including ‘the second UAE Overseas Chinese Chinese



Cheng Fuqiang

motion of economic and trade cooperation between China and UAE.

Looking ahead to 2024, I will work together with the majority of overseas Chinese people in UAE, continue to contribute intelligence and strength to promotion of Chinese culture and promotion of exchange between China and UAE.

Cuisine Competition’ and ‘2023 Dubai Happy Spring Festival Parade’, warmly welcomed the visit of destroyer Nanning of People’s Liberation Army Navy and the 44th escort fleet, enthusiastically received more than 10 batches of domestic groups to come to UAE for economic and trade exchange including Nantong economic and trade exchange group, at the same time, helped UAE enterprises and multiple Nantong enterprises talk and cooperate, and made due contributions to pro-



On 14th February, ‘passion in Jianghai, welcome in Nantong’ —Nantong Chinese New Year folk culture parade was held in Chongchuan. The parade featured formations of characteristic intangible cultural heritage, folk culture and folk song and dance such as Hai’an flower drum, Rugao puppet, and Haimen Shange, to present the charm of Jianghai culture.Photo by Xu Congjun



International students are making dragon lanterns, experiencing the Lantern Festival of China. Photo by Xu Congjun



The international students are learning Beijing Opera performance. Photo by Xu Peiqin

Briefly

Charming scenery of plum blossom

By Ding Chuanbin

Entering late February, plum trees have entered blooming stage gradually. In several places including Langshan Mountain, the banks of Hao River and Nantong Museum in the city, the scenery of plum is charming. Various colors of plum blossoms, such as red, yellow, pink, and white, compete to bloom, creating a brilliant and colorful atmosphere.

Tongzhou Public Security Bureau introduced measures to serve foreign talents

By Huang Yanming

Recently, Tongzhou Public Security Bureau introduced measures, to serve foreign talents better.

‘We set up special windows for foreign talent services, to provide certificate application and consultation services effectively and professionally for foreign talents, and to assist employers in preparing certificate application materials with full strength. For foreign talents who have urgent matters, we have opened a green channel, and will communicate with superior departments in time to expedite processing.’ Gu Jian, the captain of the Foreign Affairs Management Squadron of the Exit and Entry Management Brigade of Tongzhou District, said.

Kris, a Canadian who is applying for extension of visa at the foreign talent service special window, has been in Tongzhou for more than 10 years. In the past few years, he felt the changes of the services for foreigners in Tongzhou himself. ‘Now, it is more convenient for me to apply for a visa, with fewer materials and lesser time. I have also made many friends and they are all very friendly.’ Kris said.