



CULTURAL ASSETS
It's time we recognized the value of different dialects
> LIFE, PAGE 11



DAMAGE CONTROL
US Republican governor fires aide in bridge scandal
> WORLD, PAGE 6

HOME COMFORTS
Housing project benefits Tibetan farmers and herdsman > p3

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ZHOU WEIHAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Nuclear weapons expert Cheng Kaijia (left) and physical chemist Zhang Cunhao, winners of this year's top national science award, attend a grand ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Friday.

Top scientists awarded \$826,000

By CHENG YINGQI
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MEET THE WINNERS

ZHANG CUNHAO, 85, is a renowned chemist, former president of the Chinese Chemical Society, and a number of other prizes.

under certain circumstances, said Zhao Zhongxian, a superconductivity physicist and member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Thousands of officials punished

Both 'tigers' and 'flies' targeted as nation's anti-corruption campaign bites hard

By AN BALJIE
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Disciplinary supervision authorities punished 182,038 corrupt officials last year, an increase of 13.3 percent from 2012, the country's top anti-graft agency said on Friday.

The authorities received more than 1.95 million tips from whistleblowers and investigated 172,532 corruption cases in 2013, said Huang Shuxian, deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Among those investigated, 31 are senior officials directly administered by the CPC Central Committee, Huang said at a Beijing news conference.

Inside The commission



Discipline inspection agencies have made

and social changes force us to migrate to where we can make a better way of life, and earn a better living.

For people who relocate to Hong Kong to pursue business, education or personal goals, the norm is to rent an apartment for the duration of the stay.

According to statistics from the Hong Kong Government Secretariat Security Bureau, one-way permit holders entering Hong Kong from the mainland peaked at 61,179 in 1996, dropping to a low of 42,624 in 2010 before rising again to 54,646 in 2012.

The majority of long-stay mainland Chinese live in private homes they own or rent, hovering at 43 to 44 percent of the total number residing in Hong Kong.

The numbers highlight the importance of alternative accommodation with non-domestic housing, including long-stay residences such as service apartments.

Although there has been a recent trend in Hong Kong for some serviced apartments to be converted into business hotels, there is still plentiful demand, mostly driven by executives coming from the mainland.

A tenant at Pacific Place Apartments for nearly four years, surnamed Pan (he did not wish to disclose his full name) is a senior banker originally from southern China.

He and his wife lived in the



The main lobby of Pacific Place Apartments.

United Kingdom for many years before he relocated to Hong Kong.

According to Swire Properties Management's portfolio manager Sanjoel Ho, more than 50 percent of residents at PPA stay longer than two years, although its minimum lease is one month. The longest staying guest has lived there for more than 20 years.

"Five years ago, guests from the Chinese mainland accounted for 3 to 4 percent of our residents. Now it's 10 percent," says Ho.

Although his company provides a housing budget that would afford a comfortable rented flat in Midlevels or above Kowloon Station, Pan the banker chose a one-bedroom apartment in PPA after considering other options.

"We were concerned about the decor, or over-decoration," Pan acknowledges. "We like being able

to accessorize the apartment to our own tastes, and AB Concept's interior design is contemporary and minimal."

PPA is in the same complex as Conrad Hong Kong, and tenants have access to its outdoor heated pool and indoor 24-hour fitness facilities. PPA also offers in-room dining service catered by Conrad's Nicolini fine Italian restaurant.

"All of PPA's facilities are 5-star hotel quality," Pan continues. "The in-room dining is fantastic. After a long trip, I can order dinner from the Airport Express station and it will be waiting for me when I get home. I can take my friends to any of the restaurants downstairs. PPA is next to Hong Kong Park, and my wife and I often walk there after dinner."

Another benefit that Pan appreciates is PPA's laundry service.

Although he has a washing machine and dryer in his apartment, he can get special items laundered by the apartment's staff within a short amount of time. "Delicates such as fur, silk, ties and gloves are all done in-house," he says. "Many other apartments outsource the laundry service."

Pan has stayed in service apartments on the mainland, and feels that the biggest difference is cultural.

"Chinese buildings are newer and better," he concedes. "But many cannot handle English well. The staff tends to be more judgmental. If I'm in a t-shirt, staff in China will stop and question me. In Hong Kong, they recognize our need for discretion."

He feels that Hong Kong service apartments can improve on language skills, too. "If you don't

gress Hill since arriving in Hong Kong last August to begin her studies in business administration at HKU Space.

She shares a one bedroom apartment with a girl from Hangzhou who is in the same program, and attends classes across the street in the campus above Fortress Hill MTR station.

A family friend in Hong Kong helped her find the apartment. She says: "My friend thought Shama was better value for money compared to similar places in Tsim Sha Tsui."

According to Marilyn Fu, director of sales and marketing for ONYX North Asia, Shama's parent company, 75 percent of residents stay in Shama's five Hong Kong properties for less than a year. In the predominantly residential community of Fortress Hill, many locals who are renovating their homes will relocate in Shama for a few months to avoid living among construction chaos.

"The longest stay resident is more than 10 years," says Fu. "We have observed that more mainland tenants are staying with us."

Yu knew about Shama already, as the brand opened its first mainland Chinese branch in Shanghai's Xintiandi district in 2007.

"It's convenient to stay in a serviced apartment as everything is included."

Contact the writer at sundayed@chinadaily.com.cn.

China, Japan, Singapore and Thailand. Valid from Jan 1 to Feb 15. For more information, visit swissotel.com.

Regent Beijing partners up with Visa Cards to launch the Visa Business Package, allowing Visa Commercial cardholders 20 percent off when staying at Executive Rooms or Executive Suites for two or more nights. They also get an additional 20 percent off dining at Dacapo and cafe 99. Valid for the whole of 2014. 010-8522-1888.

CULINARY SPECIALS

Sweet gift



Traders Upper East Hotel is sharing the love over the Spring Festival, with a gourmet pastries gift hamper. At 128 yuan each, guests can enjoy traditional Chinese pastries like turnip cakes and brown sugar pound cakes. 010-5907-8405.

Cronuts

Pudong Shangri-La is launching the cronut next week, a croissant-style pastry fried like a doughnut, filled with cream and topped with a glaze. The cronut comes to China after mesmerizing New York crowds in the US city. Move over, cupcakes. 021-6882-8888 Ext 270.

GOOD NEWS

Elite admission

Chaptel Hotel by the West Lake in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, has been admitted as the latest member of Relais Chateaux, the global fellowship of luxury hotels and restaurants. Chaptel is renovated from a typical 1930s Shanghainese lane house, or shikumen, once the residence of a galaxy of historical characters. After three years of careful restoration, the hotel now boasts 17 cozy suites, all decorated in Art Deco style. Relais Chateaux, established in 1954 in France, is most famous for its strict standards in luxury hotels with character.

Green prize

The Grand Central Hotel Shanghai and the Central Hotel Shanghai, sister hotels under Shanghai Wang Bao He, have been honored with the National Five-Leaf Green Hotel award for efforts and achievements in eco-friendly construction.

The Emperor arrives in Qianmen

By SUN YUANQING

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Qianmen is currently more a tourist destination than a hot spot for Beijing's on-trend set, but it may just change soon, especially with the opening of the Emperor Hotel.

This member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World joins other illustrious neighbors in Qianmen, including Capital M restaurant. Qianmen also hosts Beijing Design Week, another factor that will attract the young, hip crowd.

"The age of the cheap group tours is coming to an end, and the era of individual visitors who appreciate original design and experience is rising. We are here to embrace that," says Liu Shaojun, founder and chairman of the Emperor Hotel.

With less than 10 boutique

hotels among the total of more than 800 major hotels, the potential is huge, Liu says.

"Boutique hotels, rather than five-star ones, will be the trend as in the West," he says, adding that he plans to open another 14 boutique hotels in the next five years.

At the Qianmen hotel, the US architect Adam Sokol handled the overall retrofitting and interior design while Canadian designer Dan Euse, best known for the 9/11 Memorial waterfall in New York, designed for the water features.

"I want to find a way to connect to Chinese culture that's more than superficial," says Sokol, 34. His previous works include the St. Albans School in Washington, DC and the Birdhouse in Buffalo in New York.

The answer is water, in all forms and dimensions.

Built upon the original site of a public bath surrounded by tea-

houses, the hotel tries to connect with its past by infusing the idea of baths and water throughout its design.

"Water was the key concept. Beijing is like a desert and it's very dry. So rain is a very special thing in Beijing," Sokol says.

The water flows down from the rooftop swimming pool, which is very rare in Beijing. The pool has a glass edge so that people can still see Qianmen gate while swimming and the water drizzles down through and falls a spectacular 15 meters before reaching an underground spa.

The access to the reception lobby is through an alley with rain. Guests are sheltered with umbrellas, and the whole experience revives the classic scenario from the poem Rainy Alley by modern Chinese poet Dai Wangshu.

Rooms are themed around different characteristics of water,



PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Liu Shaojun is founder and chairman of the Emperor Hotel Group. The group's latest hotel recently opened in Beijing's Qianmen.

like desire, serenity and mystery. The theme continues through to the in-house museum, which has the world's largest splash-ink painting by Chinese artist Huang Bingyi.

Qianmen, on the south of Tiananmen Square, was once a prosperous commercial hub selling everything from roast duck to silk.

For the boutique hotel Emperor, the majority of clients are

expected to be foreigners, and Liu says their stay is a chance for them to experience Chinese culture and lifestyle.

"We want to tell the story of water. Water is paramount in Chinese culture, symbolizing impartiality and tolerance. It is never aggressive, but influences you in a subtle manner," he says.

The Emperor Hotel Qianmen opens this weekend.