



SCIENCE

Chinese scientists bred autistic monkeys

BY ZHANG JIAWEI

The website of *The New York Times* reported on January 25 that Chinese scientists have bred genetically modified monkeys that mimic autism-like behaviours, hoping the similarities between monkeys and humans will help researchers better understand the disorder and find a potential cure.

The main cause of autism is still unknown. Scientists believe that it is related to about 100 genetic and naturally occurring variations. The disease's genetic name is MECP2 duplication syndrome. If the MECP2 gene in a human (especially a boy) duplicates, he will develop the condition.

The Chinese scientists used an inactive virus to inject the human MECP2 gene into eggs of female monkeys and then artificially inseminated the eggs and implanted the embryos into surrogate monkeys. They finally bred eight monkeys carrying the gene in the cortex and cerebellum of their brains.

According to Qiu Zilong, a

leading researcher at the Institute of Neuroscience at the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, these monkeys did not carry two copies of MECP2 as in the human syndrome, but they mostly carried more-than-normal MECP2. In other words, they showed an MECP2 over-expression. Their genetic variation and social deficits were also inherited by a second generation of monkeys.

Compared with normal monkeys, these monkeys were more likely to run in circles in their cages, which scientists interpreted as an example of repetitive behaviour. They also showed more stress and defensive behaviours, grunting more when people gazed at them. The scientists said that this reflected autism-like anxiety. In addition, they were less likely to be social by sitting with, touching or grooming other monkeys. As the monkeys got older, males showed more social disconnection, just as MECP2 duplication syndrome expresses itself in human boys.

(Xinhua News Agency)

ECOLOGY

A rescue relay

Two young guys saved black-necked crane with body heat by Napa Lake in Shangrila. Staff at Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration helped the crane recover under directions of a zoology expert

On that day, the Napa Lake Nature Reserve was covered by heavy snow. Landing in the severe cold, the black-necked crane accidentally fell into a hole in the ice. The ice was thick and the hole was small, so the crane was trapped for a long time. Just as it was dying, Ang Zhaxi and Gengqing Basong came to its rescue. Despite the cold weather, they jumped into the waist-deep water without hesitation and took the crane into their car. Seeing the black-necked crane was nearly frozen, Ang Zhaxi put it inside his coat and saved the crane with his body heat.

When the black-necked crane recovered, they immediately called the Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration and sent the crane there. He Shaoyou, director of the Nature Reserve Administration, quickly contacted Wu Heqi, an expert at the Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, who gave directions on how to take care of the black-necked crane. Staff members at Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration first dried the crane's feathers with a hair dryer and then fed it with some earthworms and glucose. After more than a week's observation and feeding, the black-necked crane recovered its strength.

On the afternoon of January 31, the black-necked crane was released. A few days later, to everyone's delight and surprise, the crane flew back and wandered outside the Napa Lake Nature Reserve Administration building.



Ang Zhaxi took the trapped black-necked crane into their car from the ice hole.

Photo by Shi Xiaoxuan

BY SHI XIAOXUAN

On January 24, it was minus 18°C in Yunnan's Shangri-La. Ang Zhaxi and Gengqing Basong from Yushu of Qinghai Province were driving by the scenic Napa Lake when they noticed something in the water. A black-necked crane was struggling in a hole in the ice. They jumped into the waist-deep water to the bird's rescue. Ang Zhaxi even held the black-necked crane against his body and wrapped it with his coats. Finally, they saved the dying crane with body heat.

INDUSTRY



Roses of different colors are seen at a flower market in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, Feb. 14, 2016. As China's fresh flower production and export base, Yunnan turns out over eight billion flowers a year, claiming over 70 percent of the market among the large and middle-sized cities in China. (Xinhua News Agency)

Photo by Lin Yiguang

ENTREPRENEURIAL STORY

The story of Ding Meitao

BY ZHANG MINGLEI

The story of Ding Meitao began with a bag of oranges. In 1989, when Ding Meitao finished high school, her father bought several bags of oranges in Sichuan for 100 yuan and took them back to Yunnan. Ding Meitao sold the orange for 150 yuan in her hometown Qujing. It was at that time that Ding Meitao had the idea of growing fruits.

In the flowering season, Ding Meitao contracted 329 acres of barren hills in Qujing's Zhanyi County with 500 yuan. She and several hired workers cleaned up thorns and weeds and built roads. In order to save costs, she braved people's contemptuous looks and picked up discarded peach stones in the street to sow

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As long as you choose the right road and work hard, you will be rewarded. I will stick to my own business ideas and go my own road.”

Ding Meitao
General Manager of Zhanyi County Longyuan Agri-Tourism Company

them on her hills.

Three years later, Ding Meitao's fruit trees began to bear fruits and she earned her first pot of gold. However, she was not ready to stop. In 2000, she

registered the Zhanyi County Longyuan Agri-Tourism Company and set up 32,000 square meters of multi-span greenhouses to grow ornamental fruits. As the first agri-tourism project in Qujing, her company achieved an annual income of more than ten million yuan.

Later, Ding Meitao opened a new business – planting yews. When she was studying crop and livestock technology at Yunnan University, a professor of economic trees told her that yews were not only of medicinal value but could make the air clean as well. Thinking of the industrial pollution in her hometown in recent years, she began to plant yews.

Ding Meitao achieved business success at a young age, but her

limited management knowledge became a stumbling block for further development. She went to Yunnan Agricultural University, Shouguang in Shandong Province and Yangling of Shaanxi Province to study crop and livestock technologies. One day, when she came back home after a training session in Shouguang of Shandong Province, her children excitedly searched her bag for gifts but found only a bag of soil. Her children did not know that this bag of soil would solve the problem of continuous cropping of greenhouse crops.

In 2013, when she won Yunnan the Governor's Award for Youth Entrepreneurship, Ding Meitao said, "As long as you choose the right road and work hard, you will be rewarded. I will stick to my own business ideas and go my own road."

TOURISM

Stone Forest becomes model of geopark management

BY ZHANG YONG

The 69th Executive Committee Meeting of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) was recently held in the Stone Forest Geopark. In the future, the Stone Forest Geopark will be promoted as a model of geopark management.

The meeting was attended by a total of 56 representatives from 14 countries, including China, Switzerland, Spain, the US, Canada, Slovenia, Japan, the UK, South Africa, India, France, Italy and Russia. The Stone Forest is located in Yunnan's Shilin County. In June 2007, the sites of South China Karst in Shilin County, Libo County in Guizhou Province and Wulong County in Chongqing Municipality were jointly inscribed on the World Heritage List under natural criteria. The Stone Forest covers an area of 350 square kilometres and contains various types of Karst topography on the earth, so it is known as the world Karst museum.

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

New Year wishes find expression in window papercuts

BY ZHANG RUOGU

Editor's Note: On the evening of January 22, "I have a date with Yunnan" Consul-General New Year Storytelling Concert 2016 was held in Kunming. The Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Lao, Malaysian, Myanmar, Thai and Vietnamese Consul Generals in Kunming as well as the Indian Consul General in Guangzhou attended the event.

This article relates the story of Bangladeshi Consul General in Kunming Muhammad Daud Ali. Let's see the kind of date he had with Yunnan.

Muhammad Daud Ali has just finished a bright red window papercut for his first Spring Festival in China. Last year, he came to Yunnan and began to serve as Bangladeshi Consul General in Kunming. In the company of his wife, he diligently learned the Chinese language as well as culture bit by bit.

The year 2015 marked the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Bangladesh. Today, China has become Bangladesh's largest trade partner, and Bangladesh has



Muhammad Daud Ali shares his story in Yunnan during the Concert.

Photo by Zou Yinshi

become China's third largest trade partner in South Asia. "More and more Bangladeshi people are now doing business in Kunming," said Muhammad Daud Ali.

It has become an important part of Muhammad's work to promote the tourism cooperation between the two countries. In the past six months, he made great efforts to further simplify tourist visa procedures on both sides, creating favourable conditions for in-depth travel and business travel. "Bangladesh is a famous tourist destination. We have the world's longest beaches and unique Bengal tigers. We welcome you to travel in Bangladesh. I believe you will love the comfortable and affordable accommodation and great food," said Muhammad confidently.

With the Chinese Year of the Monkey approaching, Muhammad specially learned from a Chinese papercut artist Granny Zhang to make a little monkey paper-cut to wish China and Bangladesh greater achievements in their future bilateral cooperation and exchanges.

CULTURE

LA NOVA world tour coming to Kunming within the year

BY DAI CHUAN

At a recent press conference in Beijing, it was announced that the global premiere of LA NOVA, a masterwork produced by the famous American entertainment brand BASE Entertainment, will be staged in Beijing in April. And other Chinese cities like Kunming, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taipei are also included on this LA NOVA world tour.

As a world-renowned entertainment company, BASE Entertainment produced a series of highly influential performances for global audiences. *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Lion King*, *Le Noir - The Dark Side of Cirque* and other classic works were well received in Canada, the United States and Europe. Among them, *The Lion King* has created an amazing worldwide box office record of 6.2 billion US dollars over the past 17 years, which means this musical and its derivative dramas are more profitable than any movie in the history.

LA NOVA means "new dream, new stardom" in Latin. Currently, LA NOVA is being rehearsed in Las Vegas and its tickets are available after the Spring Festival. During the Kunming leg of the tour, which is expected to begin within the year, a total of 40 performances will be staged over 30 days, with each lasting 90 minutes.

VISA

Germany to set up visa centre in Kunming this year

BY HU SIMEI

The German National Tourist Board announced through its WeChat public account that Germany will set up another ten visa centres in China in 2016, including one in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Later, the visa office of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chengdu confirmed that Germany will set up a visa centre in Kunming this year, though the exact time is subject to further notice by the German Embassy in China.

Of the ten new German visa centres to be set up in China, those in Kunming, Xi'an, Changsha, Nanjing and Fuzhou will be opened in the second quarter of this year. The German Embassy will announce specific dates and more details at a later date.

According to insiders, when a German visa centre is set up in Kunming, Yunnan people will be able to conveniently obtain access to Schengen countries without leaving the province, and at the same time save considerable transportation and accommodation costs.