



## Science, Technology and Education News from China

### Number 51 – September 2008

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#### Introduction

**The technological highlight of this month was certainly** China's successful launch of its third manned spacecraft on Thursday September 25, 2008, with three astronauts on board to attempt the country's first-ever space walk. The spaceship Shenzhou-7 blasted off on a Long March II-F carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the north western Gansu Province after a breathtaking countdown to another milestone on China's space journey. China became the third country after the United States and Russia to send a human into orbit in 2003, followed with a two-man mission in 2005. The successful spacewalk made China the third to master the extravehicular activity (EVA) technology. The Shenzhou-7 space module landed safely by parachute on Sunday, September 28, 2008 in China's northern grassland, after a landmark spacewalk mission that leads the country further in its space exploration.

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### **1. China's landmark spacewalk mission ends**

Xinhua 29-09-2008

The Shenzhou-7 space module carrying three astronauts landed safely by parachute Sunday afternoon in China's northern grassland, after a landmark spacewalk mission that leads the country further in its space exploration. Astronauts Zhai Zhigang, Liu Boming, and Jing Haipeng came back from a 68-hour flight, which included a 20-minute space walk on Saturday. "It was a glorious mission, full of challenges but the result is perfect. I'm proud of my country," said Zhai Zhigang, sitting on a chair after emerging from the module. The space capsule was suspended down by a 1,000-square-meter parachute and landed on its flank at Siziwang Banner in central Inner Mongolia, where 300 search and rescue staff waited. Premier Wen Jiabao, who arrived at the control center to watch the landing, clapped hands and beamed with smile when watching the spacecraft touch the ground. [...]

More details: [Xinhua News](#)

### **2. Management Measures Issued on Running of State Key Laboratories**

MOST, 19-09-2008

To further standardize and strengthen the management of state key laboratories, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) jointly promulgated the Management Measures on Running of State Key Laboratories on August 29th, 2008. [...] The new Measures made six major amendments to the Interim Measures. MOST and MOF will jointly formulate and promulgate Measures on Special Fund Management for State Key Laboratories, to enhance the efficiency of fund utilization.

More details: [Most](#)

### **3. China's first 100 teraflop supercomputer**

CAS, 04-09-2008

Recently, the Dawning 5000, a supercomputer with a processing capacity over 100 teraflops per second, was developed jointly by the CAS Institute of Computing Technology (ICT) and Dawning Information Industry Co., Ltd.

The success achieves a peak computing power of 230 TFlop/s. Based on the LINPACK method, the capacity of the novel computer reaches 160 TFlop/s. It's also high-lighted by its low cost and low power consumption.

This new breakthrough enables China to catch up with the world most advanced technologies to build and maintain high-performance computers, and makes China the second country after the US to be able to create commercial supercomputers with performance over 100 teraflops.

Dawning company was founded in 1995 as a high-tech enterprise, relying on the technology support from the ICT, the National Research Center for Intelligent Computing System and the National Center for High-performance Computing. In 2006, the company established its industrial base in Tianjin, raising new expectations in China's high-performance computer industry.

### **4. Chinese "facebook" friends hooked on games**

Xinhua, 17-09-2008

Gao is one of a growing legion of Chinese office workers who are hooked on "Parking War", which is hosted by Kaixin (kaixin001.com), a social networking website. [...] According to the Research Consulting Group, the combined market value of networking services in China exceeded 500 million yuan (\$71 million) in 2007, of which social



networking services accounted for 280 million yuan, dating services 220 million yuan, and business sites. 4.5 million yuan. The total is expected to reach 1.6 million yuan (\$229 million) by 2011.

More details on: [Xinhua News](#)

#### **5. Warming may lead to rapid loss of plant species on Plateau**

CAS, 08-09-2008

Global warming could cause a dramatic decline in plant species diversity on the rangelands of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in southwest China, suggested a joint study made by the CAS Northwest Institute of Plateau Biology (NIPB) and Colorado State University (CSU). Research into climate change and grazing conducted in the northeastern Qinghai-Tibet Plateau from 1998 to 2001 showed a decrease of plant species between 26 % to 36 %, said Julia Klein from CSU who led the research.

More details on: [Chinese Academy of Sciences](#)

#### **6. Study of repeater brings quantum communication closer to reality**

CAS, 16-09-2008

To realize the long-distance quantum communication beyond 100 km, a concept of BACZ quantum repeaters to combine technologies such as quantum memory, entanglement exchange and purification was put forward at the end of the 1990s. Recently the theory was successfully demonstrated in an experiment by a research team headed by Prof. PAN Jianwei from the University of Science and Technology of China, CAS. Experts say that the feat, which was reported by 28 August issue of Nature, overcomes another obstacle toward the long-distance quantum communication.

More details on: [Chinese Academy of Sciences](#)

#### **7. China to start construction of world's first AP1000 unit in March 2009**

Xinhua, 09-09-2008

China is to begin construction of the world's first nuclear plant using the AP1000 technologies at Sanmen Nuclear Power Project (NPP) in Zhejiang Province in March 2009, said a Chinese nuclear company executive. [...] By the year 2020, China plans to have 40-million-kilowatt installed capacity of nuclear power, accounting for 4 percent of the country's total. However the current installed capacity of nuclear power is only about eight million kilowatts. China now has 11 nuclear power reactors in operation. Among them, three use domestic technologies, two are equipped with Russian technology and four with French technologies, and two are Canadian designed. All the 11 reactors employ second-generation nuclear power technologies.

More details on: [Xinhua News](#)

#### **8. Chinese students encouraged to run in winter**

Xinhua, 28-09-2008

Beijing - China's Ministry of Education is launching a campaign to promote student health in the coming winter. The campaign, dubbed "sunny sports" involves nearly all students across the country, including those from primary schools (the fifth and sixth grades only), middle schools and colleges. As outlined by the ministry and the General Administration of Sport, students would be required to run every work day from Oct. 26 of this year until the end of next April. The notice provided distance guidelines for students to follow. Kids at primary schools have to run one km per day. It's 1.5 km for students at junior high schools and 2 km for senior high school and college/university students. Chen Zhiyong, an official from the ministry, said schools will arrange when and where students can run,



although, busy roads are not allowed. Sport administrations at various levels were asked to supervise the implementation of the campaign.

Source: [Xinhua News](#)

### **9. Hu congratulates founding anniversary of national science university**

Xinhua, 27-09-2008

Hefei - Chinese President Hu Jintao sent a congratulatory letter to China's University of Science and Technology (USTC) Saturday for the 50th anniversary of its founding. USTC has made important contributions to the development of China's scientific and educational causes and China's socialist modernization, read the letter.

In the past half century, the university has trained a number of scientists and made many scientific breakthroughs, said Hu. Hu urged more innovative teaching and scientific research, and called for efforts to build the school into a world class research university.

USTC is regarded as one of the most influential universities in China. It was founded in Beijing by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in September 1958. It moved to Hefei, capital of east Anhui Province, in 1970.

Source: [Xinhua News](#)

### **10. Premier vows to provide safe products for people and world**

Sina, 27-09-2008

Beijing - In the wake of the tainted milk powder case, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pledged on Saturday, September 28, 2008, his government would work hard to make sure that the country produces safe products for both its people and the rest of the world.

"The incident is not over yet ... My government and I will lead our people through this hard journey," said Wen during a question and answer session at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Summer Davos forum in north China's Tianjin Municipality on Saturday afternoon.

"It's not just food or dairy ... We will make the entire 'Made in China' worry-free and reputable products for both the Chinese and the people across the world," said the premier.

More details: [Sina English](#)