

At the service of Science

Shanghai Science and Technology Museum pursues a policy of science popularisation combining entertainment with culture in order to reach out to a broader public. In November 2009, it organized “Challenge, Mission and Future, the Natural History Museum Directors’ Forum” for professionals.



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Over and above its educational mission, the museum is also a meeting place. It has hosted numerous international events, such as the Summit of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the annual meetings of the Asian and African Development Bank, the Olympic Flame Ceremony, and the ninth Summit of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

On 16 November 2009, the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum (SSTM) was the focus of attention all over the world when the President of the United States, Barack Obama, visited the museum and delivered a speech, addressed

in particular to the Chinese youth among the audience. In addition to this international media coverage, the museum already enjoyed an excellent reputation in China thanks to the way it combines culture and entertainment. For example, the museum was able to attract a large public by screening a series of films and setting up amusing exhibitions. With 2.6 million visitors every year, of which 50% are teenagers, the SSTM fulfils its educational mission for a Chinese population with a growing interest in its heritage, including its scientific aspect.

> Inaugurated in 2001, five years after the construction works, the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum was born of a merger between three entities: the museum of natural history, the museum of science and technology and an observatory. Located in the new cultural district of Pudong, it stretches over an area of no less than 98 sq.km., it houses 270,000 objects and presents twelve permanent exhibitions, including ‘The spectrum of life in biological diversity’, a subject in keeping with the International Biodiversity Year proclaimed by the United Nations.

Forums to share the pleasure of the sciences

> Over and above its numerous exhibitions, the SSTM spares no efforts in making science accessible to the general public, in line with its mission to arouse the interest of the public in all areas of the sciences. Since February 2009, it organises the ‘Science Communication Forums’ of Shanghai. These forums are open to everyone and are conducted by

The Directors’ Forum, held in November 2009, was the first of its kind to be organized in China for natural history museums since the beginning of the 21st century. It has now become one of the strong points of the museum, which, together with international exchanges, continues its efforts to focus on research and scientific sharing.



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Chinese and foreign scientists who exchange their views on key subjects such as Darwinism, transgenics and the climate.

> In November 2009, SSTM also organised “Challenge, Mission and Future, the Natural History Museum Directors’ Forum” for museum professionals. This event brought together about fifty directors of natural history museums from fifteen countries, including the natural history museums of Great Britain, France, the United States and Australia.

> At present, the Science and Technology Museum is reinforcing its educational vocation by concentrating its energy on research, teaching, cooperation, international exchanges and the development of cultural tourism in order to share “the pleasure of the sciences and to respect social responsibilities”.

Archaeological museum of Zhidanyuan

In 2006, workers at the construction site in the Shanghai’s Putuo district made a wonderful discovery. While digging, they discovered a lock dating back to the Yuan dynasty. The area was subsequently transformed into a worksite to build a museum. The public will be able to visit the archaeological museum of Zhidanyuan in October 2010.



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