

ONE US\$ DEQUALS

RMB 6.8264

HKD 7.7626

JPY 89.35

EUR 0.7364

GBP 0.6645

AUD 1.1074

INR 45.60

CAD 1.0315

KRW 1139.15

THB 32.60

BRL 1.7847

SOURCE: REUTERS, 9PM FRIDAY

nanjingspecial

Various cultures 'blend' in Nanjing

By XIAO YANG

The World Historical and Cultural Cities Expo opened Oct 20 in Nanjing, capital city of East China's Jiangsu province.

Some 44 mayors from 16 countries and regions attended the fair's opening ceremony, held at the mouth of Qinhuai River.

Guests mixed bottles of hometown river water with that taken from the Yangtze River.

"The water from different cities represents their distinctive cultures. The mixing of the water symbolizes that cultures are blending in Nanjing, and that the city is embracing the world," said Zhu Shanlu, secretary of Nanjing CPC Committee.

The exposition is an opportunity for people from all over the globe to know more about Nanjing,

said Ji Jianye, the city's mayor.

"On behalf of the 8 million people in Nanjing, I warmly welcome all the participants. I believe that the city will become a place you want to stay and remember," he said.

A mayoral forum was held Oct 21. Attendees discussed how to best strike a balance between cultural heritage preservation and industry development.

The forum was hosted by Wu Jianmin, honorary president of the Bureau of International Expositions and former Chinese ambassador to France.

The biennial World Historical and Cultural Cities Expo will run through Oct 24. It features nearly 100 events, including the Nanjing Cultural Industry Trade Fair and Nanjing Folk Art Festival.

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SECRETARY OF NANJING CPC COMMITTEE

Mayors and representatives from 16 countries and regions pose for picture at the Mayor's Forum.

PHOTOS BY YANG YUJUN / CHINA DAILY

Mayoral forum addresses heritage protection

By XIAO YANG

Mayors and representatives from 16 countries and regions gathered at a Nanjing mayoral forum Oct 21 to discuss cultural heritage preservation.

"China is in a period of rapid urbanization, during which more and more historical relics are disappearing," said Zhang Jianfei, mayor of Changsha of Hunan province.

"It's crucial to protect our culture during the development of cities. I believe the preservation of historical relics is a priority."

Nanjing Mayor Ji Jianye pointed out the role of city leaders in preserving cultural heritage.

"We should respect history, culture and our ancestors. We will be able to protect our heritage only after we bear in

mind respect."

"In the meantime, the government should form a cultural heritage data base, which is like a city's DNA bank," Ji added.

"The 2,000 cultural heritage sites in Nanjing are invaluable, and we must protect them."

Yangzhou, another historical city in Jiangsu province, aims to establish 100 museums by the end of 2020 to display the city's culture in different perspectives.

"We have created tablets with simple but vivid introductions to our major cultural relics so that more citizens can know their history," said Zhang Aijun, deputy mayor of Yangzhou.

Alexander Tschäppät, mayor of Bern, Switzerland — included in UNESCO's catalog of cultural heritage sites 30 years ago — shared his

experience balancing preservation and development.

"We have probably the best public transportation in the world, so we don't hope to have many cars in our city," he said.

In Bern, over 70 percent of citizens travel by public transportation, and over 80 percent own bicycles.

"Encouraging alternative transport not only lowers traffic pressure, but also reduces noise pollution," said Tschäppät.

"Given all our heritage sites, we don't want the city to be too modern. So, 53 percent of the city is green space," he added.

Wolfgang Meyer, mayor of Goettingen, Germany, believes cultural works are a compulsory and permanent task.

"Just as we guarantee the social protection of our citi-



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NANJING MAYOR

zens or the supply of energy, we want and shall meet their cultural demands," he said.

"But it is a rewarding task, because cultural education enables self fulfillment and individual development," he continued.

"We should not only be the trustees of cultural heritage, but enhance it for future gen-

erations."

During the forum, mayors signed the Nanjing Declaration, emphasizing the importance of a city's culture and calling for better cultural heritage preservation.

The forum was staged in conjunction with the World Historical and Cultural Cities Expo.