# CHINA

## Be model patriots, youth urged

### Students from Hong Kong and Macao experience Beijing firsthand

By **LI HONGYANG** and **ZHANG YUYING**

Youth from Hong Kong and Macao view the four-goat square *zun*, dating to the Shang Dynasty (c.16th century-11th century BC), at the National Museum of China in Beijing on Monday. CHEN ZEBING / CHINA DAILY

Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang has called on young people from Hong Kong and Macao to uphold the dignity of the national flag and strive to become model patriots in the new era.

Ding made the remarks on Monday when he received a delegation of nearly 1,200 people from the two special administrative regions at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

The delegation is visiting Beijing from Friday to Tuesday under the "Salute the National Flag" program. It comprises flag-raising team representatives from 121 primary and secondary schools and 21 universities in Hong Kong and Macao, as well as about 200 officials from relevant government departments, principals, teachers and staff members from schools and universities.

Ding said Hong Kong and Macao are enjoying the best period of development in their history. He expressed the hope that young people would deepen their understanding of the national flag, cultivate a deep love for the motherland and put that love into action.

He called on them to uphold the dignity of the national flag and strive to become model patriots in the new era who love the country as well as Hong Kong and Macao. He also encouraged them to bring honor to the flag and live fulfilling lives with the passion and vitality of youth.

Ding urged the young people from the two special administrative regions to become builders and successors of the cause of "one country, two systems".

During their visit, the delegates attended the national flag-raising ceremony at Tian'anmen Square and visited the Great Hall of the People, the Palace Museum and the National Museum of China. They also toured the People's Liberation Army guards of honor base for a study session.

The delegation was divided into six groups to visit primary and secondary schools and universities in Beijing. They also took part in dedicated study visits to cultural, science and technology venues, enterprises and rural communities, among other sites.

Kuang Chun-wan, a student at Pui Kiu Middle School in Hong Kong, said he was deeply moved and excited after witnessing the national flag-raising ceremony.

"The most impressive and exciting thing for me was singing the national anthem together with our compatriots from Hong Kong and Macao, as well as mainland compatriots in the audience. It made me feel the unity of the Chinese nation and the inseparable bond between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong," he said.

Leong Hoi-cheng, a student at Fong Chong School of Taipa in Macao, said she was also excited about the experience.

"It's my first time in Beijing and my first time attending the national flag-raising ceremony at Tian'anmen Square. It is nothing like watching it back at school. Seeing our national flag rise slowly in the capital is something to be proud of," she said.

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## Gen Z seeks new ways to engage in shared 'red history'

By **LIU BOQIAN** and **YANG JUN** in Guiyang

Vietnamese youth visit the Zunyi Conference memorial museum in Zunyi, Guizhou province, on Sept 18. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Young participants at a China-Vietnam youth dialogue in Guiyang, Guizhou province, said on Monday that new approaches are needed to make the two countries' shared revolutionary history resonate with younger generations.

The dialogue was part of the 2026 China-Vietnam Youth International Communication Event, held from Sept 17 to 21 in Guiyang and Zunyi. More than 40 young people and experts from China and Vietnam visited sites including the Zunyi Conference memorial museum and watched an immersive performance depicting the Red Army's Long March from 1934 to 1936.

Organizers also released a report based on more than 4,000 valid questionnaires and interviews with nearly 100 Vietnamese students studying in China.

The report found broad awareness among Vietnamese youth of the countries' geographic ties and shared revolutionary history. However, it also said there is a need to move beyond factual knowledge toward a deeper emotional connection with that history.

It recommended establishing youth exchanges as a long-term mechanism, expanding support for cross-border entrepreneurship and encouraging young people to use social media to tell everyday stories of friendship between China and Vietnam.

The dialogue, held at Guiyang Kangyang University, focused on how immersive technology, language education and social media could help bring the two countries' shared "red culture" closer to Generation Z.

Ma Thi Diem Huong, a Chinese-language lecturer at a university in Hanoi and a content creator focusing on Chinese language and culture, said young people need more opportunities to experience history rather than simply study it.

"In everyday life, we need more immersive experiences and emotional resonance," she said, citing a digital exhibition that uses 8K imagery, motion seats and immersive mist effects.

She was referring to the Guizhou Long March Culture Digital Art Museum, also known as Red Ribbon, a digital experience center in Guiyang that uses immersive technology to tell the story of the Long March.

Huong said technology should not simplify history but instead reshape how it is presented. She proposed replacing one-way lectures with immersive experiences, incorporating personal stories into Chinese-language lessons and encouraging young people to become bilingual creators of cultural content.

Another Vietnamese participant, Mac Thanh Huong, said a visit to a memorial in Guizhou dedicated to women soldiers of the Red Army left a lasting impression.

For young people today, she said, the lesson of that history is not to relive wartime hardship, but to value peace, education and opportunities for personal growth while contributing to society through knowledge and action.

Zeng Qingkai, secretary-general of China Daily, said young people from the two countries should work together to carry forward China-Vietnam friendship, participate in practical cooperation and promote people-to-people ties. He encouraged participants to make the most of the dialogue, learn from one another and apply what they gained to their studies and work.

He said China Daily would continue to report on China-Vietnam cooperation and tell stories of exchanges between young people, helping deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

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## Discovery offers clues to cosmic particles' travel

By **LI MENGHAN**
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A joint observation by two of China's flagship observatories has traced a 42-light-year-long stream of high-energy particles traveling in a clear direction through interstellar space, providing strong evidence that such particles can retain a preferred direction long after leaving the places where they were accelerated.

The discovery, made through a joint campaign by the Einstein Probe and the Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory or LHAASO, challenges the long-standing assumption that high-energy particles quickly spread in all directions after being accelerated.

Launched in January 2024, the Einstein Probe is a space-based X-ray observatory designed to detect and study powerful, short-lived cosmic events, such as bursts of X-rays from black holes, neutron stars and other extreme objects.

Put into operation in 2023, the LHAASO is a major ground-based cosmic ray observatory in Sichuan province that detects extremely high-energy gamma rays and cosmic rays to study their origins and how they travel through space.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Institute of High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Nanjing University, was published in the journal Science China: Physics, Mechanics & Astronomy on Monday.

High-energy particles in space include ultrafast electrons accelerated by powerful objects such as pulsars and supernova remnants. As the electrons travel through space, they emit X-rays. When they interact with light particles around them, they can also produce gamma rays. By observing both types of radiation, scientists can trace how these particles travel after leaving their sources, offering clues to the century-old mystery of cosmic rays.

"The most important finding is that these high-energy particles do not immediately diffuse isotropically after escaping their source, providing a new perspective on how high-energy particles escape and travel through the Milky Way," said Feng Hua, a corresponding author of the study and a researcher at the Institute of High Energy Physics.

The finding may also help explain so-called "orphan" gamma ray sources — ultrahigh-energy gamma ray sources that have no obvious astronomical object at their location. Feng said these sources may be produced when high-energy particles travel a long distance from their birthplace before producing detectable radiation.

Chi Yiheng, another corresponding author of the study and a PhD student at Nanjing University, said the Einstein Probe's Follow-up X-ray Telescope, or FXT, played a crucial role in the discovery.

The region had previously been observed by the European Space Agency's X-ray Multi-Mirror Mission Newton telescope, but only a short section of the structure was detected. Using about 70,000 seconds of observations, FXT mapped a 42-light-year-long tail extending southwest from the vicinity of the pulsar.

Its large field of view and exceptionally low background interference in orbit enabled FXT to reveal that the structure is much longer than previously observed. The pulsar is about 4,600 light-years from Earth, and the structure is now the longest known X-ray tail associated with a pulsar wind nebula, Chi said.

A pulsar wind nebula is a cloud of high-energy particles produced by a rapidly rotating neutron star, or pulsar. The particles streaming away from the pulsar can emit X-rays, allowing scientists to trace their movement through space.

Meanwhile, LHAASO detected an ultrahigh-energy gamma ray source extending in the same direction as the X-ray tail.

The combined observations indicate that the X-rays and gamma rays are "footprints" of the same high-energy particles, seen at different wavelengths. The close alignment of the two emissions, together with their similar energy characteristics, provides strong evidence that the 42-light-year trail was formed by particles traveling in a preferred direction.

Xi Shaoqiang, another corresponding author of the study and a distinguished young researcher at the Institute of High Energy Physics, said scientists do not yet know exactly why the particles can maintain such a clear direction over such a long distance.

However, he said, the finding provides a new way of understanding ultrahigh-energy gamma ray sources in the Milky Way.

"What we see as the radiation location is likely just the 'footprint' of the particles' long journey, not necessarily their birthplace," Xi said.

He said future studies should broaden the search for ultrahigh-energy gamma ray sources. Rather than focusing only on the immediate vicinity of possible source objects, scientists should also examine regions farther away, where particles may eventually produce detectable radiation.

An accompanying commentary in the same issue, written by Gabriele Ponti of the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics, also highlighted the significance of the discovery.

"It shows that a spatial offset between an ultrahigh-energy gamma ray source and its candidate astronomical counterpart does not necessarily mean a false association; it may instead trace the propagation path of particles after they leave their acceleration site," Ponti wrote.

Cao Zhen, chief scientist of LHAASO and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, described the project as "a model for national large facility cooperation", saying the collaboration demonstrated how combining observations from major scientific facilities can produce results greater than the sum of their individual contributions.

## Shanghai hosts largest WorldSkills competition

By **SHI JING** in Shanghai
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Participants exchange ideas at the aircraft maintenance competition site ahead of the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai on Monday. YIN LIQIN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

The 48th WorldSkills Competition will be held in Shanghai from Sept 22 to 27, with a record 1,385 young competitors from 68 countries and regions gathering for the biennial vocational skills competition.

The WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 competition will showcase how time-honored crafts are embracing modernization while cutting-edge technologies are setting the pace for the future, experts said during a media tour on Monday.

The Shanghai edition features 64 skill categories, marking the first time the roster has exceeded 60. Seven new categories will make their debut, including unmanned aerial systems and intelligent security technology.

In the bricklaying category, 23 contestants will compete and each contestant will have 22 hours to complete their work during the four-day competition. As part of the surprise task, drawings will be released half an hour before the competition to allow contestants to familiarize themselves with the assignment.

Competitors must follow the drawings and standards set by experts and plan how to cut yellow, red and black bricks according to the specified patterns. Precision, standardization and resource planning are the three core skills being tested, said Qian Feng, assistant workshop manager for bricklaying.

China first entered the bricklaying category at the 43rd WorldSkills Competition, where it won a merit award, before claiming the championship at four consecutive competitions from the 44th to the 47th. This demonstrates the country's strong technical foundation and craftsmanship spirit, Qian said.

In the painting and decorating category, competitors must remove a door from its structure, take it to a designated spray booth, mix colors according to competition requirements, spray-paint it and reinstall it, while ensuring consistent structural safety is maintained. Walls must also be painted according to a specified theme.

Competitors select materials from a material library according to the competition documents, said Ling Min, technical support manager for the category. The work begins with understanding client requirements and inspecting the site, followed by removing old coatings, sandblasting, repairing cracks and applying and smoothing coatings, Ling said.

Acknowledging that robots are increasingly being deployed for high-risk tasks such as spray painting, which involves harmful, irritating and toxic gases, Ling said home renovation remains an area where greater individualization is needed and is still being explored.

As urban renewal and home renovation are highly practical and widely practiced fields, establishing high standards through vocational competitions can help raise skill levels across the country, said Ling, who is also deputy head of Shanghai Construction Management Vocational College.

Ling said the college is providing technical support for four skill categories at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, including landscape gardening. The landscape gardening category venue, covering 3,600 square meters, is the largest at the competition.

The category is highly comprehensive, requiring contestants to prepare soil and cultivation areas, lay lawns, plant trees and shrubs, work with hard materials such as stone, wood and processed building materials, coordinate material transport, design drip irrigation systems, water features and lighting, and finally clear away process waste, Ling said.

In the intelligent security technology category, contestants will begin by assessing site risks and client needs before planning a layered protection scheme integrating video surveillance, access control, alarm systems, intercoms and smart sensor networks.

Technicians must balance security with ease of operation and tailor each system to ensure the safety of people and assets without disrupting daily life, said Tan Yixian, a technical support professional for the category.

In the robot system integration category, competitors will connect a robot with end tools to peripheral equipment through power and pneumatic systems. They will then program and control the robot using computers and specialized devices, said Feng Mengqi, a technical support professional for the site.

Evaluation will cover trajectory, speed, acceleration and repeat positioning accuracy, as well as robot configuration, debugging, verification and maintenance. Twenty teams, each consisting of two contestants from the same country, will take part in the four-day competition, Feng said.

Yang Shujie, workshop manager for electronics, described the category as a "triathlon" of skills. Contestants from 19 countries must first design circuits based on the competition brief and verify their functionality through simulation before manufacturing, installing, debugging and testing the circuit boards. Beyond hardware, contestants also need software programming skills, including embedded programming.