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Forest Cities: A Reflection of Harmonious Relations Between Man and Nature in Urbanization Process

Forests in cities serve as the important ecological infrastructures to improve urban environmental quality, keep citizens physically and mentally healthy, as well as beautify urban landscapes. After 13 years' efforts, more than 170 cities from 23 provinces and autonomous regions have been named Forest City. Such efforts have been regarded as the inevitable choice of the central government to promote green urbanization and to build an eco-friendly society.

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Everlasting Rural Nostalgia: Rural Area in China's Urbanization Process

China, as a predominantly rural country for thousands of years, is now through the ongoing rapid urbanization process. The rural side of China, developed after a farming civilization for centuries, has never been fully transformed even with a series of revolutions. The urban side of the country, progressing industrial achievement, is pursued but yet never really comprehended. However, in the historic process, the two sides cannot be possibly dissevered. Choices here cast different shades of grey between eradicating rural areas to fully develop cities and merging rural and urban life to seek the core spirit of the Chinese people, thus to gradually realize the all-round development of people. Weighing such choices is a key factor in writing our reports.

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"One Belt and One Road" Initiative Column

The Maritime Silk Road Introduces China to the World

Both the maritime and land silk roads began way before the Qin Dynasty. The Bible referred China as the Country of Silk and the Chinese People as the Silk People. The concept of the Silk Road was first proposed by Westerners as a perspective to understand the mysterious country. The Maritime Silk Road is perhaps the oldest and the most endured ocean trade route, and it helped promote the culture of China to a better part of the world. It did influence the progress of civilizations along its way, while providing a key for other countries to better understand China.

The Maritime Silk Road and the Popularization of Tea Culture

Tea is the symbol of Eastern culture, and one of the best gifts China has offered to the world. Along the maritime trade route, the tea leaves as well as tea culture and rituals were introduced to many other countries. Tea ceremonies in Japan and Korea, as well as afternoon tea in the UK and Netherland, are all originated from the Chinese drink. In the Qing Dynasty, large quantity of seeds and tea seedlings, accompanied with experienced tea workers, set out from the Mingzhou Port to build tea farms in countries such as Russia and Georgia for the first time.

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Lushi, No.1 Old Town on Ancient Tea Horse Road

The old town of Lushi is located at the key point of the Ancient Tea Horse Road where it expanded into South East Asia. Ever since Ming and Qing dynasties, Lushi people made their living on tea trade. Every day, the Lushi Post Road established in the year of 1328 came and went caravans with hundreds or even thousands of horses. Han, Yi, Miao, Zhuang, Dai and several other ethnic groups live in Lushi today, and they all have the same appreciation for tea, but in their unique ways of drinking respectively. The caravans did not only take the tea, herbs and the lifestyle in the mountains out, but also bring in silk, handcrafted merchandise as well as advanced culture from Central China.

Liupanshan Town, a Key Pass on the Silk Road of Han and Tang

Liupanshan of Guyuan, Ningxia, is a town more than 1,000 years old, which located at the border area among Ningxia, Gansu and Shaanxi. As early as it was in the Qin and Han dynasties, Xiaoguan Pass was erected here to defend the border, and the great emperors of the two dynasties stationed forces in Liupanshan to expand territory while the Silk Road traveled through the pass to connect different civilizations in Asia and Europe. Chairman Mao Zedong of the People's Republic of China once wrote a poem about the place. Today, the town government is dedicated to well preserving both natural and historic heritage of Liupanshan, and fully utilizing green industries such as eco-friendly tourism to bring a new economic boom.

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On Ecology

Since the early 1900s, the arms race and the fortune race together cast a long shadow on the world. However, we today are more often driven by disorder and feats of strength to conduct evil deeds. Ecology is currently vital to people's livelihood and the destiny of our country, which includes clean air, healthy food and harmonious relations between man and nature that nurtures us.

A Chat with Nature: Hiking in the Black Forest

Hiking is a popular activity in Germany, with participants from all walks of life, and countless clubs and associations have been therefore founded. In the country, the total length of hiking route combined is some 200,000 km. The famous Black Forest, or Schwarzwald in German, is particularly friendly to hikers, with various hiking trails where you can enjoy beautiful scenery of hills and creeks as well as fresh air and unique tranquility. Time-honored hotels and ancient castles are more than willing to offer you a cozy place to rest. Most importantly, measuring the beauty of the black forest with your own feet, is the best remedy for your body and soul.

92 古树史话 | Story of Trees

Follow the Old Trees in Huizhou

The ancient trees in Huizhou perfectly integrate natural and cultural attractions, with rich connotations of philosophy and wisdom. To see them, you'll appreciate the beautiful villages, well-preserved ecosystem, traditional Chinese kinship and the practice of Feng Shui. To follow old trees in Huizhou means that you are about to enter their story, revealing their past and their surroundings, in both cultural and ecological senses.