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Ma Bo, research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology

# E-tickets for fast trains to go national

After a trial run in Hainan, program to be expanded across the country

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All high-speed railway stations across the country will allow passengers to check in without a paper ticket next year, China Railway Corp said.

Trial operations kicked off in Hainan province on Thursday, and the results will help the railway operator improve its e-ticket service before launching it nationwide sometime next year, the company said. It did not provide a specific date.

The company said that passengers who succeed in purchasing an island-looping high-speed train ticket in Hainan will have access to an information sheet that includes a QR code.

When entering the station and checking in, passengers need only swipe an identification card — a second-generation ID card for Chinese mainland residents, a permanent residence permit for foreign “green card” holders, or a mainland residence permit or travel permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan residents — at the self-service counters.

Those whose certificate cannot be read by the machines can check in by scanning an electronic or printed QR code.

Previously, a paper ticket was necessary even for pas-

sengers who bought tickets online, the company said.

“It’s very convenient and fast,” said Wu Yuanzhen, a passenger from Wuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. “I am a salesman in the retail industry and travel a lot by train. For us, time is money. E-tickets save time picking up a ticket and improve travel efficiency.”

For passengers who need to reschedule or return their ticket, if they paid for it online and didn’t print out the certificate for reimbursement, they can change the ticket or get a refund through 12306.com, a mobile phone app or the ticket office at the station.

If they paid for the ticket in cash or printed out the reimbursement certificate, they can change the ticket or get a refund after returning the certificate to the ticket office at the station.

Since 2011, passengers have been able to swipe their ID cards at self-service machines to take the Beijing-Tianjin high-speed passenger railway and Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway.

Checking in by swiping an ID card is now available at high-speed railway stations in most big cities across China, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Wuhan. At stations in some remote areas, passengers still need a paper ticket to board.



A passenger swipes her identification card to pass through a gate before boarding a high-speed train at Haikou East Railway Station in Hainan province on Thursday. ZHANG YANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Briefly

### ANHUI 43 fraudsters held in dating scam

Police have detained 43 people in a telecom fraud that targeted single people through matchmaking websites. More than 4,100 victims had been bilked of money — more than 14.5 million yuan (\$2.09 million) altogether, according to the public security bureau of Anqing. In late October, police busted the gang at three sites, confiscating more than 50 computers and freezing 143 bank cards. The suspects rented offices in Hefei, Anqing and Tongcheng, and registered matchmaking websites. They won the trust of victims before asking them to pay senior membership fees.

### TIBET Airport processes record numbers

Gonggar Airport in Lhasa, Tibet autonomous region, has received a record 4 million passengers so far this year, local aviation authorities said on Monday. According to the Civil Aviation

Administration of China’s Tibet office, passenger volume at Gonggar Airport, the largest airport in the region, exceeded 2 million in 2013, and 3 million in 2016. It is estimated that the airport will see 4.3 million passengers by the end of this year.

### HEBEI Old epitaph found in farmer’s home

A memorial epitaph more than 800 years old has been found in the foundation of a farmer’s home in Linxi county, Hebei province, local authorities said on Monday. The epitaph was engraved on a ceramic tombstone — a slab 70 centimeters long, 37 cm wide and 9.5 cm thick — and included 720 characters. It records the family trees of the occupant of the tomb, named Guo Cong. The epitaph also detailed some of the warfare between the North Song Dynasty (960-1127) and Jin Dynasty (1115-1234), while praising Guo’s loyalty and filial piety.

## Follow the bouncing ball



Tianjin Symphony Orchestra conductor Tang Muhai (right) plays ping-pong with a musician from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the Tianjin Grand Theatre on Monday. Other members of the two orchestras also participated in the match. The Vienna orchestra later performed with Chinese pianist Lang Lang at the theater to kick off its China tour, which runs through Dec 3. TONG YU / FOR CHINA DAILY

# River guardians strive to restore their childhood memories of clean waters

GUIYANG — Yang Liemeng, 50, misses his childhood, when he could swim in the nearby Wuma River.

“When the sun went down, you could see fish leaping out of the water,” Yang said.

In recent years, however, the Wuma, which runs through the city of Renhuai in Guizhou province, has been covered with a white foam brought by pollutants. Because of overfishing, “fish leaping” is a rare sight for the younger generation.

The water pollution has raised concerns of the local government. In 2009, authorities shut down the local paper mills, which had been contaminating the river. To improve water quality, pollution sources have to be dealt with first, said Feng Jinwei, a local official.

“It gives me a sense of satisfaction. I’ll keep doing this until the day I’m too old.”

Yang Liemeng, founder of a volunteer group for protection of the Wuma River

Apart from the government, local people also want to make efforts. Yang said that when he and some of his friends were walking along the river one day last year, they concluded that something should be done to bring back their childhood memories.

In May 2017, they founded a volunteer group to stop illegal fishing and report pollution sources to the authorities. Yang and his friends devoted dozens of hours per week to patrol the riverbank, stopping people from illegal fishing and waste dumping.

But the work wasn’t easy. In the second month of patrolling, Yang was involved in a physical conflict when trying to stop people catching fish. His car was vandalized, and his injuries kept him hospitalized for 16 days.

“When the man who hit me came to visit, I tried to persuade him to join us,” Yang said. “But he declined.” He did tell Yang, however, that he would no longer fish in the river.

“Even after getting injured,

I never regretted doing this,” Yang said.

Yang’s story spread throughout his town, and his volunteer organization became locally famous. More than 400 people have since joined the organization, said Guo Xiaoyong, vice-head of the group, most of which consists of farmers and merchants.

“As the patrolling team becomes known by more people, it becomes easier for members to prevent pollution and illegal fishing,” Guo said. “Since its founding, more than 1,000 people have been stopped by volunteers for damaging the river.”

“It gives me a sense of satisfaction,” Yang said. “I’ll keep doing this until the day I’m too old.”

XINHUA

# Shanghai goes all-in for garbage sorting

By CAO CHEN in Shanghai  
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Authorities in Shanghai are asking for opinions from the public until Dec 6 on a draft regulation regarding garbage classification.

The document was submitted to the city’s legislative body for a second review last week. The draft aims to regulate all processes related to garbage sorting, including dumping, collection, transportation and treatment. It retained the four categories of garbage classification — dry, wet, recyclable and harmful — which were specified in a plan released earlier by the Shanghai municipal government.

“The draft makes clear the details of garbage sorting management, strengthens supervision regarding this matter and boosts awareness of garbage classification for members of the public,” said Ding Wei, director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Shanghai Municipal People’s Congress.

According to the draft, any individual or working unit will be held responsible for the proper sorting and disposal of garbage they produce. Those who fail to follow the rules can be fined up to 200 yuan (\$29) if the offender



A garbage sorting facility in suburban Shanghai.

JIN HANXIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

is an individual, or between 5,000 yuan and 50,000 yuan for an offending work unit.

Each government division has prescribed duties. For instance, the city’s administration of landscaping and appearance is in charge of guidance and supervision of the garbage-sorting process, while its development and reform commission is responsible for formulating policies to promote resource recycling and harmless disposal, and for improving the system of charges for household waste disposal.

Further, garbage trucks must be equipped with online monitoring systems and indicate the types of household waste to be transported. Collection and

transport units may legally refuse unsorted garbage, and will report the issue.

For green consumption, the revised regulation adds rules to reduce the use of disposable supplies such as paper cups at government offices and institutions, and to encourage the use of recycled paper. No disposable daily necessities — cutlery, for example — should be offered to consumers by hotels, restaurants or other service providers.

A revised draft regulation will be submitted to the Shanghai Municipal People’s Congress early next year.

As one of China’s pioneer cities in implementing trash sorting, Shanghai published an action plan in March

200 yuan

Maximum fine for an individual who fails to follow a garbage classification regulation in Shanghai

making clear that every residential community in every district would be required to have a trash sorting program by 2020.

The aim is to reduce the volume of dry waste by 15 percent by 2020, while increasing wet waste, mainly kitchen leftovers, which can be reused as compost or fertilizer, by 80 percent. The daily volume of recyclables, including plastic and paper, is also expected to rise by around 70 percent.

“Trash sorting is an important step in achieving proper treatment and effective disposal of solid waste,” Liu Chang, deputy chief engineer at the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development’s Environmental Sanitation Engineering Technology Research Center, said in an earlier interview.

Under the plan, the city aims to phase out the burial of dry waste by 2020.

# Invention helps to set proper doses of antibiotics

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Chinese scientists have developed a prototype instrument to quickly determine the level of antibiotic resistance in cells infecting a patient, thereby allowing more precise administration of the drugs.

The device was unveiled recently by the Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which said it was the first of its kind in the world.

It can determine the level of resistance in sample cells within three hours without the need to grow more cells in a lab. Existing methods typically take 24 to 48 hours, said Ma Bo, a research fellow at the institute.

“Inventions like this can potentially lead to a paradigm shift in microbial diagnosis.”

Zhou Hongwei, head of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Zhujiang Hospital of Southern Medical University

Widespread antimicrobial resistance and the associated rise of superbugs is a major public health threat. One leading cause is the misuse or overuse of antibiotics due to incorrect assessments of how much is needed.

“Traditionally, doctors may use high doses of antibiotics to save a patient’s life ... because they cannot wait long for the results,” Ma said. “With the help of this new instrument, doctors will be advised how much antibiotic to use for different patients, and will avoid misuse.”

The institute’s announcement followed the World Health Organization’s World Antibiotic Awareness Week, which ran from Nov 12 to 18. The WHO’s annual campaign aims to increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the public, healthcare workers and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of resistant microbes.

According to the Qingdao institute, the instrument has been validated experimentally using clinical samples from urology departments at domestic hospitals.

Zhou Hongwei, head of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Zhujiang Hospital of Southern Medical University, is excited about the new device.

“Novel methods and instruments for rapid antimicrobial resistance tests are urgently needed in clinical microbiology labs, and inventions like this can potentially lead to a paradigm shift in microbial diagnosis.”

Xiao Yonghong, deputy director of the State Key Laboratory for Diagnosis and Treatment of Infectious Diseases at Zhejiang University, said it is a step toward responsible and personalized use of antibiotics.

“I hope researchers will accelerate its clinical validation,” Xiao said. “But translating scientific discoveries to the bedside can require significant investments and additional efforts.”