

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Wisdom of Wang Yangming Still Shines Today

By Dong Na

On Oct. 31 this year, the 550th birthday of the Chinese neo-Confucian philosopher Wang Yangming was celebrated. To commemorate him, recently, the World Yangming Philosophy Conference was held in his birthplace—Yuyao, Ningbo.

Life and Thoughts of Wang Yangming

Wang Yangming (1472-1529) was a Chinese statesman, general, calligrapher, and one of China's leading neo-Confucianism philosophers. He is best known for his philosophy of "unity of knowing and acting", which can be interpreted as a denial of weakness of will.

Born and raised in Yuyao, Wang was among a handful of historic Chinese figures with high moral standards, impressive political feats, and significant intellectual contributions.

Wang was a capable official who successfully handled numerous political crises and armed rebellions during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), as well as a moral philosopher who founded an influential neo-Confucian school of thought that advocates integrating knowledge and actions. Wang Yangming is a household name among intellectuals not only in China, but also in Japan and South Korea.

Wang's Influence Resonates in Modern Times

During the Conference, researchers from different disciplines and backgrounds discussed the theories and practices of Wang's philosophy.

"His thought is practical and reveals a humanistic spirit similar to 'a community with a shared future for mankind'," said Zhu Hanmin, vice-chairman of the International Confucian Association.



Yangming culture has attracted much attention in Ningbo.

[Photo by Chen Jiasheng]

"Wang claimed that social governance is based on changing people's thoughts. We can take a page from it when building a community with a shared future for mankind." Chen Zhiping, president of the China Ming Dynasty History Society, insisted that Wang's philosophy is still inspiring in modern times.

Wang believed that knowledge and action are inseparable. This way of thought has become very popular in China in recent years, with it being used to re-define the country's development, growth, and the way it sees itself

in the modern world.

With more than 500 years of development, Yangming Culture is more than just a legacy of the treasure trove of Chinese history, rather a bridge for cultural exchange in the modern world.

Wang's doctrines have been discussed in detail by scholars around the world. As some experts see it, Yangming Culture can be regarded as a valuable cultural asset that China has to contribute to the world in modern days. It represents the intellectual achievements and the cultural creativity of the nation.

Ningbo Promotes Yangming Culture

Ningbo has long been committed to the research, promotion, and dissemination of Wang Yangming's ideas. Every year, a series of cultural activities are held.

In recent years, the city has renovated the Former Residence of Wang Yangming and built several landmarks to commemorate the local dignitary, including the Zhongtian Pavilion and Yangming Park.

During Ningbo (Yuyao) Yangming Cultural Week in 2021,

a jade carving featuring Wang crafted by national first-class artist Yuan Jiaqi was donated to Yuyao at the launch ceremony. Carved from 1.37 metric tons of Dushan jade, it depicts the scene of Wang visiting Siming Mountain and is now being placed in his former residence in Yuyao. The week-long event included a variety of fora, seminars, and exhibitions.

In February this year, Yangming Ancient Town, a comprehensive tourism facility themed on Wang Yangming broke ground in Yuyao, as one of Ningbo's notable cultural and tourism projects.

SPOTLIGHT

A Ningbo Youth Becomes a World-class Skill Champion

By Gou Wen

At 4 p.m. local time on November 27, the World Skills Competition 2022 Special Edition in Austria ended.

Jiang Xinhua, a competitor from Ningbo, won the gold medal in heavy vehicle technology and maintenance. This is the first gold medal won by the Chinese team in this field.

The World Skills Competition aims to encourage the growth of young skilled workers in various countries and is known as the "Olympics" in the skill world.

This time, he signed up for heavy vehicle maintenance in the World Skills Competition held in Salzburg, Austria. A total of 12 competitors from all over the world participated in the competition.

Heavy vehicles cover a wide range, including trucks, excavators, bulldozers, and other common models, as well as various agricultural machinery.

"We should be familiar with and master the maintenance technology of all kinds of heavy vehicles, but it is not easy," Jiang said. The model of Liebherr excavator in this competition is not available in China.

According to the rules, during the specified 18 hours of competition, the competitors should accurately find out all problems according to the English instructions and solve them one by one.

It is hard. According to Liu Qinghua, a teacher at Ningbo Technical College, improper operation of the heavy vehicle will lead to serious accidents. Therefore, every step of the operation of the competitor should be communicated with the referee.

"When I step on the podium, I put the Chinese national flag on my shoulder. Because I showed the world the 'Chinese skill' and the 'China youth'," Jiang Xinhua said.

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双语汇 Different Tongues

南宋石刻公园：于石刻艺术中品宋韵

By Xu Zhuowei

The Southern Song Dynasty Stone Carving Park is located on the east bank of Dongqian Lake. The stone carvings in the park are mainly from the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), while some were made in the Ming and Qing Dynasty. There are more than 200 statues in the park, most of which were originally placed in front of the tombs of the Shi Family in Southern Song, reflecting the family's eminent position and power.

南宋石刻公园位于东钱湖东岸，公园里的石刻以南宋时期为主，涵盖部分明、清期间的作品，共200余尊石像生，大部分是南宋史家四位宰相的墓道石刻，体现了史家的显赫官位和权势。

Stone carvings are famous for their vivid image and diverse gestures. The officials, military officers, crouching tigers, instant horses, and

kneeling sheep figures represent "loyalty, bravery, etiquette, righteousness, and filial piety" respectively, which vividly represent the history and culture at that time.

石刻以造型准确、形体动作多样、表情生动而著称。园中的文臣、武将、蹲虎、立马、跪羊分别代表了“忠、勇、节、义、孝”，相当鲜明地再现了当时的历史人文景观。

The exhibits in the Park also include stone arches, architectural decorations, pagodas, bridges, stone chairs, helmets, decorative patterns, and geomancy in Southern Song Dynasty. Therefore, it is considered as a historical book with rich content and profound meaning.

南宋石刻还包括南宋时代的石牌坊、建筑居饰、佛塔、桥梁、石椅，以及相关的冠盔服饰、图案装饰、风水堪舆等。因此可以认为是一部石头雕成的内容丰富、内涵深邃、风采尽显的历史文化史书。



The Southern Song Dynasty Stone Carving Park. /南宋石刻公园。 [Photo by Yan Long] 严龙 摄

