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Exploring legal construction in Lingang area of the Shanghai FTZ

By ZHA JIANGUO
and XIA LI

On Aug. 12, a forum on legal construction in the Lingang area of the Shanghai Free-Trade Zone (FTZ) was held in Shanghai.

Without available experience to learn from, China needs to explore its own way of building FTZs. Gu Gongyun, a professor from the School of Economic Law at East China University of Political Science and Law, said that, as the building of FTZs progresses, the formulation of related laws at the national level can be put on the agenda. Governments should attach importance to providing policy support, public services and public infrastructure, so as to create a favorable environment for economic and trade activities in FTZs.

Hu Jiexiang, a professor of the KoGuan School of Law at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, suggested that the building of the Lingang area of the Shanghai FTZ should draw on Singapore's experience. Plans for FTZs' functionality and business models should be encouraged, and bonded functions should be fully leveraged. In addition, the Shanghai FTZ needs to attract high-end research and development institutions and manufacturing enterprises while better leveraging such forces as social organizations in infrastructure construction.

Deng Jie, a professor from the College of Philosophy, Law and Political Science at Shanghai Normal University, said that it is profound progress to allow famous foreign arbitration agencies and dispute settlement bodies to set up offices



Scholars at a forum on legal construction in the Lingang area of the Shanghai (FTZ) Photo: CASS

in the Lingang area of the Shanghai FTZ, which means China has taken the initiative in opening up its arbitration services industry through experiments in the Shanghai FTZ.

The establishment of credit systems and the conception of equality before the law are of great significance for the building of the Lingang area of the Shanghai FTZ. Zhang Shufang, a professor from the School of Law at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE), put forward that the first step of construction in the Shanghai FTZ is legislation. Innovation is also needed, along with a great deal of argumentation at the primary stage. Legal construction in the Shanghai FTZ should be discussed under the framework of the national legal system, including such issues as conflict and coordination between the FTZ's legislation and other laws along with the characteristics and position of the FTZ's development plan.

In recent years, China has made more specific and clarified require-

ments for the building of pilot FTZs. Song Xiaoyan, a professor from the School of Law at SUFE, said that, from the perspective of rule of law, a friendly legal environment for enterprises provides laws and institutions based on enterprises' needs. Its contents include establishing the market-based allocation of human resources, capital and material resources, maintaining the order of equal competition, establishing a reasonable tax system, and formulating legal institutions in terms of effective dispute settlement. Governments should focus on public services through which companies can obtain support and protection. Therefore, the legal construction in the Lingang area of the Shanghai FTZ should transfer from a supervision-centered legal relationship to a contract-centered legal relationship among equal parties, and various activities should be regulated according to the newly-formed legal relationship in the process of the Shanghai FTZ's further opening up.

Scholars highlight integrated development of culture and tourism

By ZHA JIANGUO
and TONG WEI

On Aug. 10, a symposium on the integrated development of culture and tourism was held at East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai.

Wu Ruijun, dean of the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences at ECNU, said that the important development trend of the tourism industry lies in promoting the transformation and upgrading of the tourism industrial structure and pushing ahead with the integrated development of culture and tourism at a deeper level. The integration of the two industries will combine traditional Chinese culture with history and tourism, in a bid to enable tourists to get a better understanding of the local culture. Therefore, scholars should focus on issues of consumer demand and clarify the theoretical foundation of the integrated development of culture and tourism. Scholars and experts should provide solutions to specific issues and suggestions to policymakers through investigations, research, analyses and conclusions. From the perspective of national governance and industrial development, scholars should combine contents with entities, so as to stimulate the integrated development of culture and tourism.

Rong Yueming, director of the Institute of Literature at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, said that, as the tourism industry has trended toward imbalanced development, researchers need to analyze and clarify the characteristics of its market structure and entities, along with any differences in terms of regions, degree of development and tourists' demands. We can further advance the transformation and upgrading of the tourism industry and the innovation and passing down of culture through constantly promoting theoretical studies, strengthening statistical support for industrial development, and introducing effective measures for the transformation and upgrading of the whole tourism industrial chain.

Qian Zhi, director of the Reform Research Department at the Development and Research Center under the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, said that, in order to achieve the combining of culture and tourism at a deeper level and accomplish

high-quality research, we need to better understand such key words as systems, platforms, entities, achievements and theories. Through investigations and studies, we can discover issues, causes and demands. On this basis, we can properly introduce social capital, improve supporting facilities, establish platforms convenient for market entities step by step, and enhance cultural attraction, so as to promote the integrated development of culture and tourism at a deeper and higher level.

Zeng Yuan, deputy director of the Shanghai Management Office of Cultural Affairs, Reform and Development at the Publicity Department under the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, said that, in the macro sense, market entities in the course of the combining of culture and tourism include governments, consumers and others, extending into such areas as finance, law, funding and consumption. In order to provide support for Chinese culture to go global, we need to speculate on how to coordinate the interests of different parties, fully leverage cultural and tourism resources, innovate with development models and create tourism brands with regional characteristics.

Dai Bin, president of China Tourism Academy, said that, to achieve the integration of culture and tourism through market entities, we need to figure out the relation between culture and tourism in a new age, and we need to concentrate on the realistic restrictions facing market entities. He suggested that, in the course of research, we should not only conduct theoretical studies, but we should also practice in culture and tourism markets to produce valuable and profound investigation reports. We should also make efforts to strengthen field research and data collection, select excellent cases at home and abroad for conducting in-depth studies, and hold talks with different market entities, in a bid to promote theoretical foundations and innovative practices in terms of market entities. Moreover, we should take into consideration talent cultivation and discipline construction in research and guide more young scholars to participate in investigations and studies to contribute to the development of the culture and tourism industry.

Academic publications promote dialogue among civilizations

By HUANG YA'NAN
and ZHANG YIXIN

On Aug. 18, a symposium on academic publications was held in Beijing.

Zhou Zuoyu, vice president of Beijing Normal University (BNU), said that the publishing industry has played an irreplaceable role in passing down and communicating human civilization, and it is also a remarkable contribution made by ancient China to the world. Two of the Four Great Inventions (the compass, gunpowder, papermaking and printing) are related to publishing. Among this, papermaking and printing have played a leading role in human civilization and development. Because the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative features mutual learning between civilizations, exploring the relationship between the B&R initiative, academic research and cultural exchange is of profound historical and practical significance. Being an important category of

the publishing industry, academic publications are key to the development of the publishing industry, the prosperity of academic research, and even the progress of human thought. As academic publications shoulder the responsibility and task of improving the quality and quantity of innovation in human culture, strengthening academic publishing is of great importance and influence.

Liu Binjie, director of the Research Institute for Publishing at BNU, said that more than 100 countries, regions and international organizations have embraced and participated in the B&R initiative. It is becoming an experimental zone for building a community of shared future for mankind. The way of achieving people-to-people bonds lies in cultural exchange and cooperation along the B&R routes. Carrying forward the fine tradition formed in the process of cultural communication between Eastern and Western nations, the publishing circle in China has strengthened

communication and cooperation with B&R countries, and it has made profound breakthroughs in copyright transaction, book promotion, talent training, technological cooperation, and the localization of investment and joint ventures. With academic research being the essence of human wisdom and the treasure-house of truth, dialogue between civilizations through academic languages and publications is a significant means for the global dissemination of China's culture, image and cultural essence.

Wan Anlun, a professor from the School of Journalism and Communication at BNU, said that, with the remarkable history of publishing and its spirit of research and innovation, building a leading publishing system is in accordance with development trends and is a significant symbol of cultural confidence. Current publishing circles should inherit traditions and strive to push ahead with the development of China's publishing industry.