

### **“Proud to be Chinese”**

The Huanghe Valley has developed one of the four earliest civilizations for 5000 years. China has gradually become a superpower since the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I, being Chinese, am proud of myself. There are several events that further strengthened my pride of being Chinese.

First, it is a honor that the two Chinese astronauts accomplished their space mission. Nie Haishang and Fei Junlong, excited the re-entry capsule of Shenzhou VI, with broad grins on their faces on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Shenzhou VI returned safely to the Earth after a successful five-day flight around the Earth. This journey has made an epoch in space technology. Compared to Shenzhou V which was blasted off in 2003, astronauts could move freely and there was a larger place for working and sleeping in Shenzhou VI. China is now planning to conduct a space walk in 2007. The final stage is to set up a permanent space laboratory and build a space engineering system. Isn't it marvelous? China has finally showed her prestigious status by space mission. China is now getting ahead of the United States. Recently, Hong Kong has held some space exhibitions in Space Museum. The two astronauts were also invited to explore Hong Kong for a few days. Many people flocked to the Coliseum to welcome the two astronauts. There is no doubt that this proves the triumph of China's science and technology, and more importantly, Hongkongers have a stronger sense of national identity. They are prouder to be Chinese. Everyone is enthusiastic about the coming of the two astronauts, but it is unfortunate that some Hongkongers are two-faced – they were indeed disinterested in space travel before, but once they saw China's victory, they become active and crazy at collecting all kinds of space souvenirs, photos, cups, T-shirts, icons ... It is just flattering!

Back to 2004, China won numerous medals in Olympiad games in Greece. China's outstanding achievement in Sports is also praiseworthy. We, being Chinese, should be proud of ourselves. Though Chinese are not so big and tall compared to Westerners, we can still do it – by defeating opponents in Sports games. One good example is the story of Liu Chang, the champion in the 100m Hurdles in 2004 Olympiad Games. When he was in secondary school, he wished to join the school basketball team but he was rejected. Later, an instructor called him to join the National Sports Training Team, and after 10 years' hardship, stamina and endurance, he tried his best in the Olympiad Games and won a gold medal. This is a good example to prove that Chinese are hard-working, responsible and devoted to our work and study. This also strengthens my national identity. I am Chinese from the PRC.

Besides sports, music and the Arts are another vital element in our lives. Chinese are never weak in playing Western music. Li Yundi and Liang Liang play the piano exceptionally well. Li Yundi once won the World Championship in Chopin's Piano Contest in 2003. Li and Liang both got a diploma in piano in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. They perform many times in front of the audience and win critical acclaim. Ma Yo-yo, another Chinese, play the violin exceptionally well. In his biography, Ma said that his Mom forced him to practise piano for 6 hours every day. 'Though it's hard work, it's worthwhile. I like playing the violin. I enjoy it.' He added. I see that these three pianists and violinist are dedicated to music. It is great because every movement is physically and aesthetically unique so, through music, I reduce stress but increase awareness. Whenever I am annoyed, I also play the piano. Maybe one day I am also a pianist if I have strong determination. Music enhances one's aesthetic taste, through playing the piano, I have a stronger national identity because Li is my idol.

Talking about science discoveries, Chinese never surrender. A Hongkonger, Kao Kun, who was a ex-principal in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, invented optical fibres and got the Nobel Prize for Physics. Optic fibres are applied in endoscopes and lighting system. When inserting an endoscope into the patient's infected wound, doctors can see the inside clearly and this helps diagnosis. Optic fibres are also often used in Christmas tree decorations. So, China is never 'the Sickness of East Asia' – Chinese have invented many scientific discoveries – indeed, compass, dynamite, paper-making and printing technology were all invented by Chinese; Chinese led their maiden voyage till East African Coast first, earlier than Portuguese one century before. Chinese are pioneers of science; Westerners are followers and modifiers. So, I am proud of being Chinese. China, New Page, New Stage!

(780 words)