110,000 volunteers serve congress

TENS of thousands of volunteers won cheers and applause from attendees of the XIX International Botanical Congress (IBC) held in Shenzhen from July 23 to 29 for their service before and during the congress.

Around 110,000 Shenzhen volunteers served the conference, according to the Volunteer Office of the city’s Communist Youth League. Most of the volunteers are university students with good English proficiency. They were also筛选 volunteers who had an image of a gingko tree, which was the logo of the IBC.

One volunteer wearing the iconic red vests, scattered around public places like checkpoints, airports and Metro stations to provide help and guidance to the IBC attendees from different countries and regions.

Volunteers who registered to contribute to the IBC were divided into three groups to cater to various needs, such as serving as docents for botanists who joined excursions to parks and the botanical garden, providing on-site service at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center, where the IBC was held, and some other public venues as well as serving at academic seminars or doing some paperwork behind the scenes.

Hou Yingji was one of the volunteers wearing the gingko-logo T-shirt. She led a team responsible for installing, guiding and presenting an exhibition on between plants. Before the congress kicked off, Hou and her teammate spent nights translating the captions of the exhibition’s photos.

Hou is about to start her Ph.D. in the United Kingdom in September. She chose to spend her summer holiday volunteering.

Another volunteer, Zhou Qianmi, is a student from Southern University of Science and Technology (SUStech). Zhou wanted to become an international volunteer during her university life and she was thrilled to be selected.

The volunteers were required to speak fluent English so they could answer questions from the experts. Meanwhile, a certain level of botanical knowledge was also required.

The volunteers worked through at least two rounds of selection for an English proficiency certificate and they were trained for two months before the congress began.

At a Glance

Road closure

TWO roads in Futian District will be closed to traffic today to make way for an underground pipeline renovation project in Futian Bonded Area. Taoshua Road between Shihua Road and Haihong Road will be closed until Nov. 28 while Lanhua Road between Shihua Road and Taoshua Road will be closed until Aug. 31.

Rumor denied

SHENZHEN police Sunday have refuted a rumor that police officers had recently been checking videos, voice recordings and photos on every Metro rider’s mobile phone. Police said they were looking for the rumormongers.

Woman cheated

A NEARLY 80-year-old woman named Wang who claimed to run driving schools in Shenzhen was taken from her home by her so-called boyfriend.

He got to know a man surnamed Cai while living in Shenzhen. Cai had been living with her son, identifi ed as Tiantian, for two months since he moved to Shenzhen from Chongqing. Cai has been_elem had expired in April and he hadn't renewed the license yet.

The company’s spokesperson, Yao said the company would offer Liu an answer in a few more days. The company would offer Liu an answer in a few more days.

According to the Pingshan police, they received the report around 9 p.m. Saturday and an on-site investigation showed that the boy had died from drowning. The investigation of the case continues.

80-year-old millionaire abducted by boyfriend’s son

A NEARLY 80-year-old woman was abducted by her late boyfriend’s son, who allegedly wanted to inherit the property rights of her two buildings in the Meilin area, according to a SZTV news report.

The woman, surnamed Cai, had lived with her boyfriend since she moved to Shenzhen from her hometown in Jieyang in the 1960s. She built two two-story buildings over there. She sold one of the buildings to the Meilin Production Team in the 1980s. Her nephew was in charge of the construction work.

The two buildings are estimated to be worth more than 100 million yuan (US$1.48 million) based on the housing prices in the Meilin area. Cai has employed an agent, surnamed Huang, to lease the apartments in the two buildings for her. The total rent for these apartments is over 100,000 yuan a month, according to the report.

Cai had been living with her boyfriend, surnamed He, for the past few decades until he passed away in January last year. Cai wanted to take the management rights of the two buildings back from Huang in April last year, but was refused by Huang and He’s son.

He’s son and daughter-in-law broke into Cai’s home in Shenzhen last week and brought her to Guangzhou against her will.

With the help of police, Cai returned to Shenzhen two days later. She was diagnosed with drug poisoning, a urinary tract infection and slight trauma by doctors at a Shenzhen hospital.

According to the attorney of He’s son, he brought Cai to Guangzhou because he cared about her health, but he had failed to contact Cai because Cai’s nephew had changed the lock in Cai’s home.

Cai said she felt scared and helpless when she was abducted from her home, and her requests to return to Shenzhen were rejected by He’s son.

“His son just wants to inherit my two buildings because he believes he should be the inheritor after his father passed away,” Cai said.

Cai has filed a lawsuit against He’s son and Huang, demanding that they stop collecting rent on her behalf and return the 1.2 million yuan in rent that they have taken from her. Cai said she would definitely not live in the property rights of two buildings to He’s son.

A lawyer said Cai can apply to the court for behavior protection and property protection to protect the safety of herself and her properties.

Zhou served as a docent at the palm tree garden in the Fairy Lake Botanical Garden in Luohu District during the IBC. Switching between Chinese and English for different experts was one of the challenges in her volunteer work, said Zhou.

The volunteers were required to speak fluent English so they could answer questions from the experts. Meanwhile, a certain level of botanical knowledge was also required.

The volunteers worked through at least two rounds of selection for an English proficiency certificate and they were trained for two months before the congress began.

4-year-old boy drowns in pool

A 4-YEAR-OLD boy died after drowning in a swimming pool on Saturday for their service before and during the congress.

According to the boy’s father, surnamed Liu, his wife brought their son, identified as Tiantian, to a swimming pool in a hotel in Shenzhen’s Futian District around 9 p.m. Saturday. Tiantian was swimming in the children’s pool while his mom was sitting by the pool. His mom later pronounced dead after a while Tiantian was found drowning in the adults’ pool.

Tiantian was in coma when he was pulled out of water by another swimmer. Liu said his wife blamed herself as she had failed to keep an eye on Tiantian because she should have been on guard at night after a while Tiantian was found drowning in the adults’ pool.

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