

# Tickets for 2017 Wuhan Open now available

By Jessie Fan Intern Hu Xinyi



Famous tennis player Li Na, winner of the 2011 French Open and 2014 Australian Open Photo by Li Wei

A ticket launch ceremony for the 2017 WTA Wuhan Open was held on June 14 on the Zhiyin Cruise, and began a 100-day countdown to the tournament set to take place from September 22 to 30 at the Optics Valley International Tennis Center. As Wuhan Open's Promotion Ambassador, Li Na appeared at the ceremony and interacted with tennis fans in the Wuhan dialect.

This year, the upgraded ticket system allows patrons to enjoy an entire day of tennis with only one ticket which

eliminates the need to purchase separate tickets for daytime and night matches as in previous years. To help promote tennis among teenagers, students can enjoy a 50% discount for regular tickets. A Public Open Day allows tennis fans to enter the Optics Valley International Tennis Center free of charge on September 22 and 23, and it is now possible for the public to register on the Wuhan Open's official website.

"Even though I've been promoting other important tennis tournaments, the Wuhan Open

is the closest to my heart because it takes place in my hometown. This year I will stay in Wuhan during the 2017 Wuhan Open, watch my friends play and cheer them on," Li Na said.

Tickets are available at the Wuhan Open official website, [www.4008702014.com](http://www.4008702014.com). If you book in June, you will get a 40% discount, 30% discount in July and 20% in August.

So, what are you waiting for? Get online and get ready to watch your favorite tennis stars here in Wuhan. You may also encounter Li Na there.

## China to compete against Uzbekistan to qualify for 2018 FIFA World Cup in Wuhan

By Yu Guowei

The Chinese men's national football team played against Syria in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers which resulted in a 2-2 draw on June 13. China will face Uzbekistan on August 31 and Qatar on September 5, both of which are crucial matches.

The Wuhan Football Association revealed that the China Football Association has

agreed that Wuhan will be the host city for the last match on home turf. Officials from the Asian Football Confederation will visit Wuhan to determine if the city meets the criteria for the match. If things go smoothly, the China-Uzbekistan world cup qualifier will be held at the Wuhan Sports Center.

Over the past 10 years, Chinese national teams have

come to Wuhan to compete in various games. Wuhan Sports Center has been called a "blessed place" due to consistent victories. The national football team is familiar with the sports venue, and last time they were here they won the game against the Maldives 4-0. Three of the players are from Wuhan which should boost the team's confidence playing in front of a home crowd.

## 100 international PhDs explore Optics Valley

By Huang Qi & Xiao Juan

Wuhan expresses its plan to retain not only a million local graduates but also to welcome international students to the city.

The 2nd 100 International Doctoral Students Explore Optics Valley Event was held at Huazhong University of Science and Technology on June 6 by the China Scholarship Council. International doctoral students exchanged ideas with high-tech enterprises in the region and expressed a willingness to stay in China to seek employment or entrepreneurship after graduation.

The students were from Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Wuhan University. They came from the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Russia, and countries along the "Belt & Road."

## Successful test of vertical entertainment wind tunnel

The world's largest vertical entertainment wind tunnel, five meters in diameter and 15 meters in height, started its first trial run in Jingmen, Hubei Province, on June 4. Eight members from the Hubei Parachute Team completed wonderful aerial acrobatics in the wind tunnel, marking the success of the trial.

The Jingmen wind tunnel provides steady airflow at a rate of 60 to 80 meters per second by regulating the high-speed airflow generated by the fan at the bottom of the tunnel. People can jump, float, and tumble, or even try thrilling simulated skydiving maneuvers in midair, experiencing unprecedented novelty and challenge.

## Unmanned aerial vehicle on guard for river rescue

By Xia Yi

The two-river rescue campaign of Wuhan this summer officially launched on June 2.

Volunteers to join the program include the Changjiang River Rescue Volunteer Team, the YB Rescue Team, and volunteers from riverside parks. There will be more than 1,300 volunteers on duty at 19 spots along the Yangtze and Han rivers.

The YB Rescue Team has independently developed a UAV that can drop life buoys. They have already obtained several patents for their technology.