

Seasoned chef to build smart dining system

By Chen Lin

As a chef, Xu Kang has participated in many large-scale events such as the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, an Antarctic scientific investigation, and the 2017 World Fly-in Expo. Now he is working to build smart dining hall for students in Wuhan to make the catering industry more responsive to the needs of their clients.



Xu (middle) at the Great Wall Station with research staff

Beijing Olympic Village:

In 2008, Xu Kang worked as a cook in Beijing Olympic Village. He worked in the salad department for 10 hours a day, making thousands of salads in more than 30 varieties. This experience enabled Xu to learn about advanced catering ideas and management methods.

Antarctic Research Station:

Xu Kang was recruited by the Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration to work for half

a year at the Great Wall Station in Antarctica in 2008. Food was transported from outside and vegetables were scarce there. To create a variety of food for the research staff, he began making tofu with soybeans, thus becoming "master of tofu" in people's eyes.

World Fly-in Expo:

Last year, the World Fly-in Expo was held in Wuhan. Xu's company provided lunch boxes for volunteers. Data analysis showed that Hubei fish balls

were the favorite among the Chinese and foreign volunteers.

Smart dining in Wuhan:

As of now, Xu's company has served over 70,000 students in over 60 primary and high schools in the city. Xu also plans to build a smart dining hall with big data analysis on students' dining habits. With this system, parents can get to know the diet preference of their children and receive constructive advice for their children's diet.

First pedestrian overpass elevator put to use

By Yao Chuanlong



The first pedestrian overpass elevator

Photo by Zhan Song

The city's first pedestrian overpass elevator at the intersection of Tangjiadun, Machangjiao, and Xianggang roads was put into operation in August. It has brought great convenience to pedestrians, especially seniors.

Staff from the city management commission in Jiangnan District, the operation and maintenance unit of the elevator, has revealed a plan to install two more pedestrian overpass elevators this year at both Hangkong Road and Wansongyuanheng Road.

Crabs arrive early to market

By Yu Kangting

Crabs are already available in Wuhan's aquatic product markets this year. However, the price is higher, and they are sold by individual crabs rather than by total weight. At a fresh market near Wangjiawan in Hanyang, there are only a few stalls selling crabs, and they don't have many crabs for sale. A female crab weighing 150g is priced at RMB 15, 125g at RMB 14, and 100g at RMB 12.

The crabs raised in Wuhan will be available around the Mid-Autumn Festival (September 24), and citizens may have to wait until the end of this month to enjoy reasonably priced crab meat. "The quality of crabs produced this year is not worse than in previous years. The temperature in Wuhan is relatively warm, which is conducive to the rapid growth of crab seedlings. Therefore, although this year's crabs will enter the market earlier, they are generally larger," said an expert at the Wuhan Modern Agricultural Education Center.

Parks turn waste into art

By He Fangcheng

On September 6, our reporter saw five large-scale sculptures in Daijiahu Park. These sculptures were created using the discarded mechanical parts of the Qingshan industrial construction period. They made full use of the design aesthetics of the industrial parts and reflected the industrial history of the Qingshan area through the use of this new combination.

The signs in the park are made of red bricks. More than 200,000 red bricks used in paving the road in the park are from the buildings demolished in the renovation of the old city of Qingshan District.

The recycling of various types of waste in the park represents the concept of sustainable development; it also presents an environmental education that helps citizens build up their environmental awareness. It is the embodiment of urban culture that can highlight local history.



The sculpture is made from discarded mechanical parts in Daijiahu Park

Photo by Guo Yanhua