China-Faster Than a Speeding â€˜Bulletâ€™ by Tom Hopkins

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Faster than the helicopter, the Chinese speeding bullet had already made headlines, hogging the media limelight. Surpassing France and Japan in science and technology, China has recently manufactured bullet trains or "zi dan huo che"å-•å¼¹ç•«è½¦ (in Chinese Language) that can travel at a magical speed of 350 kilometers/hr. Recently a rail route between Shanghai and Hangzhou has opened up with high-speed bullet-trains traveling at a breakneck speed of 312kms/hr! During the test phase, these trains have traveled at 400 kilometers /hour which is now the new world record for the fastest train in the world. Using top-notch, advanced technology from Siemens, Alstom and Kawasaki (Japan and France), this phenomenal invention has set an example for other developed countries of the world. Chinaâ€™s bullet trains are even faster than Japan's Shinkansen bullet trains and France's TGVs. Now you can travel the never-ending distance between Shanghai and Hangzhou in just two and a half hours! However if this wasn't enough you could be pinching yourself to believe that these trains never stop!!! Special cars that automatically attach themselves to the speeding bullet patiently wait at every station for passengers, who board them and the moment the train speeds into the station, the cabin starts picking up speed to match the trainâ€™s and attaches itself to the bullet. The economy of China is growing at an exponential rate. The Fortune magazine aptly describes China's economic rise as â€œa developing nation modernizing at warp speed" to keep pace with the rich world.

A fifteen billion dollar project is almost on the verge of successful completion. The country will soon be the proud owner of 42 high-speed lines. The construction work is already underway and in no time, China will have its long-term dream fulfilled, as it plans to connect the mainland with Europe via these bullet trains.

Today, being fast is almost synonymous with being manufactured in China. If you participate in any of our study abroad programs, you may come across many buildings with eye-popping architecture that were built in a matter of weeks. Donâ€™t be surprised to know that these buildings were standing on a patch of barren land, just a week back.

China, time and time again, has proven to the world what it is capable of when it comes to the construction sector. The main pavilion of the Shanghai expo, which is considered by many as an architectural icon, came into being in just twenty four hours. The Ark hotel likewise was erected in lesser than a weekâ€™s time and its main fifteen storeys were constructed in just two days. Do not be under the impression that China was violating labor laws through the procedure. All construction workers used to return home by ten oâ€™clock, every night.

China has already carved a niche for itself in the global IT industry. It has lately built the worldâ€™s fastest computer- Tianhe-1, which is housed in the National Center for Supercomputing, US. This computer is capable of two thousand five hundred trillion calculations per second. This new super machine is said to have dethroned the Cray XT5 Jaguar that is present in the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Cray XT5 is capable of one thousand seven hundred and fifty trillion calculations per second. Studying abroad in China will certainly bring you closer to some of the countryâ€™s technological and architectural marvels. So, participate in our Chinese language programs and explore a life-time of opportunities in a country that is about to accede to the global superpower status. However, the fruits of economic boom and technological advancement are not evenly distributed amongst all the sections of Chinese society. There is still a gnawing gap between the haves and have-nots and the Chinese government is sincerely trying its level best to reach out to the poor people and educate them so that they can turn their lives around and enjoy the many blessings of technology.

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