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Dark Tea Made into Health Product

Hunan province is one of the major dark tea planting bases in China. In recent years, the health function of dark tea has been gradually recognized by local consumers.

Hunan Tea Group Co. Ltd and Hunan Golden Flower Zhenpin Trade Group Co. Ltd partner with national plant element application research center to announce that they will soon officially put a health product made by dark tea to the market.

The product took the companies and research center seven years and 220 million RMB to invent, which aims to contribute to weight controlling.

“This is the first dark tea health product globally,” said Zhou Chongwang, chairman of Hunan Tea Group Co. Ltd., adding that the core value of the health product, besides weight controlling, is to protect stomach and liver and against dementia.

Liu Zhonghua, vice chairman of China Tea Association, said that the new dark tea product will be helpful to overweight group and people with hyperlipaemia, and it will also help to promote the industry upgrading of Hunan's tea products. (Source: Sanxiang Metro)

China Updates is a service provided by U.S.-China Health Products Association. The Newsletters are issued approximately three times a month. China Updates provides news on regulatory environment, new legislation, association activities and any information related to China's natural health products industry.

CFDA Updates Cosmetic Ingredient Catalogue

To strengthen regulation on cosmetic ingredient in the country, CFDA updated its catalogue of used cosmetic ingredients.

The latest catalogue is supplementary to two previous editions that were released in Feb and May, 2013. These two catalogues cover cosmetic ingredients that have been approved to use in China.

The draft of the new catalogue, titled as “catalogue of used cosmetics ingredients”, includes all used cosmetic ingredient in China, with a few terms still wait to be update and can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#). (Source: CFDA)

New Regulation on Food and Health Added by MOH

Based on Food Safety Law, the National Health and Family Planning Commission released four new regulations on food safety. They are Guideline of Formula Food of Special Medical Use(GB29922-2013), Production Regulation of Formula Food of Special Medical Use (GB29923-2013), Limit Volume of Pathogenic Bacteria in Food (GB29921-2013) and Food Label for Special Food’s Package (GB13432-2013).

Guideline of Formula Food of Special Medical Use targets at patients who have problem in digesting and metabolism. The guideline applies to this group of people who are above one-year-old.

Food Label for Special Food’s Package regulates that “it is forbidden to claim volume and function of necessary elements in formula food for infant of 0 to 6 months”. It is in efforts to ensure the infants can get comprehensive nutrition and avoid false promotion.

Limit Volume of Pathogenic Bacteria in Food is based on the current regulations on food sanitation and quality, industry standard and quality of agricultural product. It covers eleven kinds of food including meat product, aquatic product, egg product, wheat product, chocolate product, vegetable product, beverage and seasoning etc.

The Commission asks related departments to launch promotion and training campaigns to makes sure related standard can be carried forward. (Source: MOH)

More Men in China Choose Plastic Surgery

To stand out from crowds of job applicants, many in China resort to plastic surgery to give themselves edge in job market. According to data from several plastic surgery agencies in Shanghai, when this year’s winter vacation just started, medical institutions face another peak time of plastic surgery.

This year sees an increasing number of male consumers applying plastic surgery. Data from local health departments in Shanghai saw in an increase of 18% to 26% increase of the number of male consumers who made appointments to have plastic surgery. Practices including nose job, double-fold eyelid and wrinkle lifting are among the most popular.

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Local authority warns consumers that they need to have surgery in authorized medical institutions with professional medical staffs and equipment, as many of institutions that promote themselves as with surgery certificate are operating without official approval and can only provide substandard service. (Source: News Daily)

Chinese Hotels Drop Stars to Score Political Points

The grand thresholds of China’s fancy hotels often trigger the question: who can afford this place?

Now, five-star hoteliers appear to be asking the same thing – and, spurred by Beijing’s anti-corruption push, are taking steps to make their properties look a little less fabulous.

According to Hangzhou hotel magnate Chen

Miaolin, he and his fellow innkeepers are taking the extraordinary step of removing stars from five-star star properties.

It’s an industry response to pain, Mr. Chen said in comments reported by China Business News and confirmed to The Wall Street Journal by one of his deputies.

Amid China’s anti-extravagance sweep, hotels are downgrading themselves to score political points – and win back business from politicians. A year ago this week, President and Communist Party Chairman Xi Jinping declared war on “undesirable practices” by officials that he said risked creating an “invisible wall that separates the party from the people.”

As the Journal reports, the government has introduced a growing list of antiwaste and anticorruption regulations aiming to crimp the use of public funds on items ranging from luxury travel and meals to calendars.

The campaign presents particular trouble for fancy hotels, which have worked hard to build upper-class images.

Among the about 700 five-star hotels in China, average occupancy sagged five percentage points in the year to mid-2013, to 50%, according to government figures cited in China Tourism News. The figures show room revenue off 11% in the period, while dining receipts plunged nearly 19%.

According to the new modesty trend Mr. Chen describes, hotels are repositioning toward mid-range categories. Fewer stars mean lower prices — all the better to attract what remains of the pinched stipends Chinese officials say they now get for official travel.

In fact, Mr. Chen deployed the strategy at his own chain, New Century Hotels and Resorts.

New Century has repurposed a handful of its five-star properties, though its website still describes the

company as China’s “largest private high-star chain hotel group.”

New Century says it is letting lapse the five-star certificate on a hotel in Nanjing, changing another one Tianjin into a retirement home and has recently closed two expensive clubs on the banks of Hangzhou’s famous lake.

The club closures follow a sudden move this month by authorities in Beijing to order shut luxury venues in parks that had operated for years.

Chinese media quoted Mr. Chen describing himself as a role model in the trend, and as “absolutely supporting and agreeing” with the government’s anti-waste campaign. “We made the decision according to



the need of the market,” said Zhang Shu, New Century’s brand director, who answered questions by telephone on behalf of Mr. Chen.

China’s campaign is rippling through the global luxury sector. In announcing last year’s financial results, French hotelier Accor SA—which operates brands such as Sofitel, Novotel and Mercure— on Jan. 16 said it had “lower business” in China. Chief Financial Officer Sophie Stabile told analysts the weakness reflected China’s economy and unspecified “political constraints,” according to a

transcript of her comments

Downgrading a hotel isn’t quite so straightforward, according to the government agency that hands out the stars, the China Tourist Hotel Association.

“There’s no such thing as ‘downgrading stars,’ ” said a woman in the rating department who declined to be named. She explained that if five-star properties choose to change their ratings, they will be considered unrated. (Source: WSJ)

Local Watchdogs Empowered in Food Safety Shake-up

Chinese provincial governments are quickly empowering local food safety watchdogs in line with the requirements of the central government to prevent food scandals.

Since the China Food and Drug Administration was launched during the cabinet restructuring of last March to supervise the full process of food production, circulation and consumption, a primary mission of provincial governments has been to correspondingly restructure their food safety monitoring mechanism.

During the reshuffle, the functions of quality inspection departments are intensified as they gain food safety jurisdiction previously held by health as well as industry and commerce departments.

To make sure the reshuffle runs smoothly and efficiently, the China Food and Drug Administration has sent out work teams to various provinces.

While inspecting the work in central China's Hunan Province in mid-January, Liu Peizhi, vice minister of the administration, urged provincial governments to complete the reshuffle as quickly as possible on the premise that the restructured outfits could have sufficient resources to fulfill the mission of the administration.

The administration is yet to announce the progress of the nationwide restructuring.

However, Li Hongyuan, director of the food and drug administration of Xiamen City in east China's Fujian Province, was quoted by the Xiamen Daily as saying that more than two-thirds of 31 provincial regions in the Chinese mainland have completed relevant restructuring so far.

Yan Zuqiang, chief of the Shanghai Municipal Food and Drug Administration, said that one goal of the restructuring was to increase the number of grassroots inspectors.

Describing the human resources structure of the old monitoring mechanism as "olive-shaped," with the



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higher management on the top and grassroots inspectors on the bottom largely outnumbered by middle management, Yan said that law enforcement at the grassroots level has been very weak.

After the restructuring, he said, the number of local grassroots inspectors in Shanghai had risen to 1,700, representing the bulk of the city bureau's staff.

Food safety has become a top concern in China as a string of safety scandals, particularly the one in 2008 when melamine-tainted baby formula caused the deaths of at least six infants and sickened 300,000 others, have crippled customer confidence.

Shanghai municipal legislator Xu Liping agreed that the weakness of food safety supervision was at the grassroots. (Source: Xinhua)

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