



• Students' living experiment



Four volunteers take an oath during a ceremony before they enter a module at the launch of Beihang University's Lunar Palace 365 program in Beijing yesterday. The volunteers, along with another four-person group, will take it in turns to participate in a 365-day bioregenerative life support system experiment. The volunteers taking part are postgraduate students at the university. — Xinhua

SK LEADER OPEN TO PYONGYANG VISIT

Moon taking softer stance on North Korea and may reconsider US missile defense system

NEW South Korean President Moon Jae-in said yesterday he was open to visiting North Korea under the right conditions to talk about Pyongyang's aggressive pursuit of nuclear missiles.

Moon's softer stance on North Korea could create friction with Washington, which has swung from threats of military action to hints of dialogue as it seeks to formulate a policy under President Donald Trump.

Moon, speaking during his oath of office as the first liberal leader in a decade, also said he'll "sincerely negotiate" with the United States, Seoul's top ally, and China, South Korea's top trading partner, over the deployment of the THAAD advanced US missile-defense system in southern South Korea. The system has angered Beijing, which says its powerful radars allow Washington to spy on its military operations.

In a speech at the National Assembly hours after being declared the winner of Tuesday's election, Moon pledged to work for peace on the Korean Peninsula amid growing worries over North Korea's expanding nuclear weapons and missiles program.

"I will quickly move to solve the crisis in national security. I am willing to go

anywhere for the peace of the Korean Peninsula. If needed, I will fly immediately to Washington. I will go to Beijing and I will go to Tokyo. If the conditions shape up, I will go to Pyongyang," he said.

Moon, whose victory capped one of the most turbulent political stretches in South Korea's recent history, assumed presidential duties early in the morning after the National Election Commission finished counting and declared him winner of the special election necessitated by the departure of conservative Park Geun-hye.

He was expected to nominate a prime minister, the country's No. 2 job that requires approval from lawmakers, and name his presidential chief of staff later in the day.

Moon thanked the millions of people who staged peaceful protests for months calling for Park to go. She was impeached and arrested in March over a corruption scandal. He also offered a message of unity to his political rivals — Moon's Democratic Party has only 120 out of 300 seats in the National Assembly, so he may need broader support while pushing his key policies.

"Politics were turbulent (in the past several months), but our people showed greatness,"

Moon said. "In face of the impeachment and arrest of an incumbent president, our people opened the path toward the future for the Republic of Korea," he said, referring to South Korea's formal name.

To his rivals, Moon said: "We are partners who must lead a new Republic of Korea. We must put the days of fierce competition behind and hold hands marching forward."

Taking up his role as commander in chief, Moon began his duties earlier in the day by receiving a call from Army General Lee Sun-jin, chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, who briefed him on the military's preparedness against North Korea.

He then left his private residence in an emotional send-off from hundreds of people and visited a national cemetery in Seoul. After bowing to former presidents, independence fighters and war heroes, Moon wrote in a visitors' book: "A country worth being proud of; a strong and reliable president!"

He also visited the offices of opposition parties, seeking support in governing a country that is split along ideological lines and regional loyalties.

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Saving the planet: with one cup of coffee at a time

Li Anlan

PLANTING trees, cleaning invasive species and making organic fertilizers out of wastes, Starbucks has celebrated World Earth Day 2017 on April 22 in Cenbo village, Qingpu district with the goal of serving the local communities and making a greener future.

The ecologic village is sits by Dianshan Lake, Shanghai's largest nature lake. The vast greenery and criss-crossing riverways not only protect the environment, but are also Shanghai's backup water source.

About 300 volunteers from Starbucks, the Qinghuan Volunteer Service Center and Shanghai Vocational College of Science and Technology arrived at Cengu Farm in Cenbo village and worked in groups to plant trees, remove Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago Canadensis*), a fast-growing invasive weed harmful to the soil and to experiment with making fertilizer from coffee grounds and weeds.

Since 2011, Starbucks has designated every April as the Starbucks Global Community Service Month. This year, the Starbucks stores

in Eastern China have contributed more than 10,000 hours of community service together with customers, suppliers and volunteers.

Eco-themed community service events have been organized in Shanghai for the past six years with the goal of improving the living environment and promoting a green, low-carbon lifestyle through green marathon and tree planting.

"Starbucks shares the same passion of caring for the earth just like our customers," says Xie Guanhong, General Manager of President Starbucks.

"We have long-term commitment to preserving the nature and environment, and through this field trip to Cengu Farm, we also hope to introduce the concept of a low-carbon environment to our partners and the public, making it a lifestyle and contributing to bringing a bluer sky to Shanghai."

Starbucks has also launched the one-month in store campaign "Love the Earth, Make One Cup Matter." For the fourth consecutive year, Starbucks offered free coffee to customers who turn up with their own mugs and tumblers in the morning

of World Earth Day.

The first 20 customers of each store also received a cup of Starbucks' signature cold brew.

Since 1985, Starbucks has been offering discounts to customers who bring their own cups, which has saved millions of paper cups globally every year. In China, customers who bring their own cups can receive a 3-yuan discount.

Tips for recycling coffee grounds:

Every Starbucks store produces about 10 kilos of coffee grounds every day, the wastes is free for your use.

Remove odor: fill some dried coffee grounds in a container or a breathable bag and put in the fridge, shoe cabinet and bathroom. The coffee aroma can also be layered in an ashtray.


As fertilizers: grounds contain nitrogen which makes it an ideal fertilizer for plants that favor acidic soil, such as mint, aloe and azalea.

As hand scrub: wash and massage hands with grounds can smooth the skin and adsorb dirt.

Clean oil and grease: scrub some grounds onto greasy plates and clean with just water.




The Starbucks eco-friendly Nanchezhan Road store




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