“It is the first time that the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering is held in China. It is a great opportunity for exchange and mutual-learning as well as for deepening friendship among people from different countries. This Artistic Gathering 2018 served as a bridge that bring together artists in the five continents, a platform for exchange and mutual-learning between the eastern and the western civilizations, a stage showing international achievements in theater for children and also an engine driving the development of theater for children globally. ”

——Mr. Shugang LUO

Minister of Culture and Tourism of P.R.C

Here in Beijing, we have had many opportunities for genuine exchanges and sharing, particularly through the three Artistic Encounters, the Next Generation programme and the workshop programme. We have had many opportunities for experiencing and reflecting on performances from China and from many other parts of the world. We have done a lot of thinking and hard work, looking towards the future of the Association, and we have connected in many ways with different people. We have been hosted most generously by ASSITEJ China and we have been able to enjoy a variety of events and experiences together.

Coming from five continents, we leave as one family, recommitted to our work in theatre for young audiences, with fresh perspectives and taking away a little piece of China with us. ASSITEJ China has helped ASSITEJ to build the road to the future, and the journey is ongoing. We look forward to journeying with ASSITEJ China into this future, and to growing and strengthening what has been created and shared here. We invite everyone present at this Artistic Gathering to be part of that journey going forward.

——Yvette Hardie

President of ASSITEJ
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1 About ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

1.1 Brief Introduction of AAG18

Time: 18-24 August, 2018;
Theme: Imaging the Future;

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 was held in Beijing from August 18th to 24th, 2018. Within the week, guests from all around the world gathered in Beijing, witnessing and co-creating countless amazing moments that which constituted the Artistic Gathering. By sharing experience in creation and results of innovation, the attendants made great contribution to the international community of theater for children. It was their collective effort that made the 2018 Artistic Gathering a tremendous success.

The 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering was held under the theme “Imagining the Future” with over 500 attendants from 46 countries and global branches and operational networks of the ASSITEJ, including artists, heads of artistic institutions researchers, and domestic and foreign theatrical professionals. A total of 18 plays provided by 16 troupes from 11 countries were selected out of 426 candidates from 56 countries, putting up 53 performances within the week. Meanwhile, a series of artistic activities took place in different venues, including three ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters, 21 Chinese and international theater for children workshops, two multicultural dialogues between the east and the west, the Next Generation Program, symposiums, theater for children summer camp, the “China Day” event, the ASSITEJ Asian Artistic Gathering, the Chinese and Foreign theater for children and young people picture exhibition and the outstanding Chinese and international children's book fair. This artistic gathering provided an opportunity for all attendants to experience the profound Chinese culture and the global achievements in art.

Under the theme “Imagining the Future”, guests from around the world discussed the influence of eastern and western cultures on the concept of theatre for children, the adaptation of children's theater pieces, and the trend towards international co-production. Young artists explored the artistic inspiration of the Chinese story of “Cinderella”. Artists from all over the world joined various workshops, jointly picturing the future of children's theater. At the same time, the ASSITEJ Asian Artistic
Gathering, and the BRICS Alliance of Theaters for Children and Young People meeting were held to further strengthen regional cooperation. We also enjoyed the bilingual version of China Idiom Stories performed by Children's Theatre of Charlotte from the United States and the English version of The Twelve Months directed by artists from the China National Theatre for Children (CNTC), both of which are the best examples of communication and cooperation between Chinese and western children's theater. At this artistic gathering, after thorough discussion, distinguished Chinese and international guests unanimously passed the monumental Manifesto for Theatre for Young Audiences' Practitioners and the action plan, which will become the future guide for the development of international theater for children and young people from 2018 to 2020.

The ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018, just like a bridge, brings together people from all over the world. It is a bridge of friendship, through which we sow the seeds of friendship to the world and get closer to each other. It is a bridge of cooperation, through which we learn from each other and deepen our collaboration. It is a bridge of the future, through which we imagine the future and move forward hand in hand. We firmly believe that this gathering has become a brand-new start of deeper friendship, broader perspective, and stronger cooperation. The international children's theater has embarked on a new journey from Beijing!

1.2 Preparations of ASSITEJ China

November 2017, in Mantova of Italy, Memorandum of Agreement between ASSITEJ and ASSITEJ China (Host) was signed; and also confirmed the dates for ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 in Beijing, China;

December 2017, finally selected 18 productions from 11 countries among the 426 submissions from 56 countries;

January 2018, in Nuremberg of Germany, Implementation Scheme for 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering was passed by the Executive Committee of ASSITEJ in principle;

February 2018, in Tokyo Japan, confirmed the Registration Packages plan of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018;
On March 19, 2018, Registration to ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 opened officially;

In June, 2018, after communication with the Executive Committee, content and layout of the annual ASSITEJ magazine were officially confirmed.

On August 7, 2018, held Press Conference of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018;
On August 18, 2018, Opening Ceremony of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018;
On August 24, 2018, 10-Year Anniversary of Next Generation;
On August 24, 2018, Closing Ceremony of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018;

2 Statistics of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

Number of Delegates: 536 (AAG Registration: 167);
Countries No.: 46;
Number of Productions: 18;
Number of Performances: 53;
Number of Workshops: 22 (Including two multi-cultural Dialogues);
Number of Artists participated in performances and diverse artistic activities: 433;
Number of Performance audiences: 24121;
Number of Workshop Participants: around 750;
Number of tickets for public moments: 1855;
Print Number of Magazine: 1200;

3 Financial Figures of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

3.1 Actual Budget

Total cost of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering: USD 461,679;
Cost for Productions performance: USD 216,077 (including performance fee, cost of hotels, meals and relative technician service, etc.);
Reception Cost of Invited International Guests (including ASSITEJ EC Members, 30 Delegates from different ASSITEJ China member units and special invited foreign partners): USD 87,216 (hotels, meals, tickets, etc.);
Reception Cost of Next Generation Program: USD 11,813 (hotels, meals, tickets and venue leasing);
Cost of ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters (including venues leasing, equipment, drinks, stationery, etc): USD 47,276;

Cost of Online Registration: USD 17,911;

Cost of ASSITEJ Magazine: USD 9,251 (received € 5715.8);

Cost of Advertising and Promotion: USD 10,277;

Cost of translation and stenography: USD 18,904;

Cost of transportation: USD 12,635;

Cost of Volunteers and staff: USD 13,696;

Cost of Stationery: USD10, 884;

Other Service Cost: USD 5,761;

3.2 Fund Support

Beijing Culture and Arts Fund: USD 179, 105;

China National Arts Fund: USD 123, 881;

Beijing Dongcheng District Culture Committee: USD 59, 702;

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China: USD 14, 925

Registration Fee: USD 8, 090;

Box Office: USD 67, 164;

Magazine Support from ASSITEJ: USD 6,755 (€ 5715.8);

The total fund we received was USD 459, 625; basically achieving a balanced budget.

4 ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters

ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters were held at The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in Beijing, China from August 19 to 21, 2018.

Centered on the theme “Imagining the Future”, nearly 300 delegates from China and foreign countries had participated to communicate about creation, director, performance, music, stage design and other topics of children’s drama.

All participants had been divided into different discussion groups. All delegates presented at the conference had chosen a group by their interest and sit around for free discussion of certain topic. The EC members have acted as the convener of a group who is responsible for organizing discussion and reporting discussion details.
By the end, the host gave a summary. ASSITEJ EC Members and China National Theatre for Children had recorded and summarized main points which were taken into the draft of Beijing Declaration. The Beijing declaration had been officially released at the Closing Ceremony on August 24 evening.
Artistic Encounter (I)

Time: 19 August, 2019   09:00-12:00

Agenda:
09:00-10:30 First Half: Interactivity;
10:30-10:50 Tea Break, Taking photo together;
10:50-12:00 Second Half: 5 Keynote Speeches (10mins/ person)

Artistic Encounter (II)

Time: 19 August, 2019   09:00-12:00

Topic: Creation, Performance, Music, Scenography, Cultural Policy and Space, etc.

Agenda:
09:00-10:30 First Half: Panel Discussion;
10:30-10:50 Tea Break;
10:50-12:00 Second Half: Panel Discussion

Artistic Encounter (III)

Time: 19 August, 2019   09:00-12:00

Agenda:
09:00-10:30 First Session: Panel Discussion
10:30-10:50 Tea Break;
10:50-11:00 Second Session: Conclusion and Summary

Advocacy: we educate the gatekeepers (politicians, teachers, theatres, families) about theatre for young audiences (TYA) empowering children, young people and ourselves;

Freedom: we have the responsibility to devise places where anything is possible;

Exploration: we create opportunities where others can follow their own personal curiosity and inspiration; and through collaboration we search further for the unknown;

Innovation: we embrace imaginative and challenging aesthetics, forms and disciplines;

Inclusivity: as story tellers, we embrace all voices and perspectives;

Accessibility: every child, regardless of cultural and social background, financial situation and ability, deserves to see performances anywhere they can;

Respect: children are full citizens of society, they deserve to be heard; we also recognize each other’s cultural heritage and theatre history without judgement;
5 Activities and Events of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

5.1 Opening Ceremony

On 18 August 2018, the Opening Ceremony of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 is held successfully in CNTC. The Minister of Minstry of Culture Tourism announced the opening of the event. President of ASSITEJ Ms.Yivite President of CNTC Mr.Yin Xiaodong delivered important speeches. All ASSITEJ EC members, delegates from more than 40 countries together with the audiences attended the Opening Ceremony. They reviewed the history about ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering through a special made video and watched the film about the preparation work made by ASSITEJ China. After the Ceremony, all the delegates and audiences watched the opening show---*The Mermaid in East China Sea*.

5.2 International Children’s Theatre Performances

*The Mermaid in East China Sea (CNTC)*
The Snowman Who Wanted to Meet the Sun (Romania)

Journey to The West (CNTC)

American Version “China Idiom Stories”

Mandragora Circus (Argentina)
The Primitive Family (Beijing)

AHA! (South Africa)

24 Solar Terms (Xi’an of Shaanxi Province)

Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon (Australia)
Twelve Months (Performed by Elementary Students)

Yao Yao (South Korea)

Notre-Dame de Paris (Shanghai)

The Cubes Circus (Israel)
Looking for Hailibu (Tianjin)

Kashtanka (Croatia)

Sandpiper, Clam and Fish (CNTC)

The Little Red Riding Hood (Poland)
5.3 Next Generation Program

Number of Participants: 30 (Registration Number: 32, two of them weren’t come)

Participants List: SONG Jiianlin [China], JING Gangshan[China], CHEN Xinqiang [China], LI Yazhou [China], TU Yuanyuan [China], FU Lei [China], WU Yifei [China], HE Lan [China], ZHANG Mengmeng [China], BA Yu [China], YANG Boren [China], MA Liang [China], DANG Dan [China], CHAN Ying Kwok [Hong Kong, China], Ceren Oran Gredler [Turkey], Claire Mason [USA], Clayton Santos Guimaraes [Brazil], Dana Roy [India], Grace Loi [Malaysia], Hamish Parkinson [New Zealand], Ladda Kongdach [Thailand], Mathias Becker [Germany], Micaela Picarelli [Argentina], Rachel Aberle [Canada], Ramon Verdugo Lopez [Mexico], Ross Collins Mackay [UK], Sara Scarlet Strachan [Australia], Seohyun LEE [South Korea], Tumi Moroeng [South Africa];

Next Generation Participants, ASSITEJ EC Members and CNTC Leaders

“Next Generation” Training Program is aimed at establishing one professional training platform for young people (under 36 years old) who are engaged in children drama. It is aimed at seeking opportunities of international exchange and cooperation
and young people and a new generation of artists applying to participate the program. In 2018, 32 artists from 18 countries throughout the world (15 Chinese artists and 17 international artists) have participated in this program; and ASSITEJ China has organized wonderful activities for them to experience and offered a piece of work for them to work together, rehearse together and perform together; during this period, they have made a special tour in Beijing, watched different shows, done some workshops and the most important, they finally finished the creation of *Cinderella in China*, and each of them learned a lot, gained a lot and all were happy to receive a Next Generation Certificate for the first time.
Participants’ Feelings:

Ross Collins Mackay (UK)——It’s really inspiring for me to see people all over the world are making work for young audiences and considering our future practice. I love all of the parts.

Mathias Becker (Germany)——I am glad to have the opportunity to meet each other and talk with them about different topics. I really like that.

Ceren Oran Gredler (Turkey)——It has given more free space to the diversity of movements and possibilities. It’s all creative practice. ——Claire Mason (USA)

Ramon Verdugo Lopez (Mexico)——I am excited and glad to have this opportunity to learn new experiences.

Clayton Santos Guimaraes (Brazil)——All experience for me is exciting, the host is amazing. It’s pleasure to meet all of the people.

Sara Scarlet Strachan (Australia)——Through the days, we see shows and go to workshops. And on the night time, we do the rehearsals for the show. It’s pretty for long, but it’s really an exciting experience.

Dana Roy (India)——The schedule arrangements are really wonderful, with so many beautiful things for us to taste. When we get into the rehearsals, it is really nice. Now we can say that how different people get approach, make a piece of work together; and through the performance, we learn more about each other. I think this is the most important thing about Next Generation.

Seohyun LEE (South Korea)——I have never had chance to work with professional artists any more. It was really great to be a part. And it was good to know each participant’s nationalities, personalities and professions.

Grace Roi (Malaysia)——The host is really nice and warm. I think it was worth for me to come here. I have learnt more and would like to explore more in the future.

Ladda Kongdach (Thailand)——It is really inspired me a lot during the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering and Next Generation program.

CHAN Ying Kwok (China-Hong Kong)——To play with each other, to communicate with each other, the happiness is beyond my imagination.
SONG Jianlin (China-Beijing)——I have obtained different feelings and a lot of new ideas through this wonderful event.

JING Gangshan (China-Beijing)——I never imagine that I can have such an opportunity to do creation and performance together with artists from different countries. It’s just like a dream for me.

Boren YANG (China-Gansu)——The best thing for me is to get acquainted with so many friends from all over the world.

WU Yifei (China-Hubei)——Interesting, Impressive, with good memories, wonderful and meaningful

MA Liang (China-Ningxia)——Art is without borders.

Yazhou LI (China-Shandong)——It is a great honor for me, that I can have such an experience in my life.

5.4 Workshops

1). The personal story--by Runi Lewerissa (Indonesia) & Zelma Feldman Lewerissa (Denmark);
2). The cornerstones of my choreographic practice for babies experience--by Dalija Acin Thelander (Sweden);
3). Listening to Children--by Vicky Ireland (UK);
4). Children’s theatre and Folk tales--by Zhong Hao (China), Feng Lei (China), Lise Hovik (Norway)&Mariana Silva (Argentina); Facilitator--Ouyang Yibing (China);
5). Choreography as expanded practice in performing arts for babies---by Dalija Acin Thelander (Sweden);
6). Small size Network--Why do you keep doing theatre for Early Years?—by Yvette Hardie (South Africa), Roberto Frabetti (Italy) & Cliodhna Noonan (Ireland);
7). From Children’s Literature to Children’s theatre: The Art of Adaptation for Children’s theatre —by Feng Li (China), Du Cun (China), Helen Hristofski (Australia) & Vicky Ireland (UK); Facilitator: Ding Xiaoqiu (China);
8). Performance of Chinese Opera: Aesthetics of Stylization in Peking Opera —by Hu Jingbo (China) & Shen Mingju (China);
9). **International Inclusive Arts Network**—by Vicky Ireland (UK) & Nilgün Güven (Australia);

10). **Puppetry**—by Ma Lu (China), Clíodhna Noonan (Ireland), Wu Jiarui (China), Zhao Jing (China) & Niu Jingxiu (China);

11). **The Fairy tale Path** (Lokstallen)—by Mari Moe Krysinska (Norway) & Meysam Abbas Hosseini (Norway);

12). **An International Co-production for Children’s theatre**—by Wang Jianguo (China), Leng Jiahua (China), Dai Ronghua (China), Zhou Xiaoli (China), Kenneth Dingle (US), Calin Mocanu (Romania), Janet Stanford (US) & Seok-hong Kim (South Korea); Facilitator: Cai Jinping (China);

13). **Imagining the Future (For Dancers and choreographers)**—by Teresa Rotemberg (Switzerland);

14). **Tiny Plays for a Big Country-micro play writing workshop**—by James Lawson (Australia);

15). **Sensuous Learning: Sisters Hope Performance Methods**—by Gry Warre Holberg (Denmark);

16). **Soundpainting**—by Ceren Oran (Turkey);

17). **Clown and Comedy**—by Toomas Tross (Estonia) & Haide Männamäe (Estonia);

18). **Musicals in TYA of the future**—by Meike Fechner (Germany);
19). **Secret Schoolyard/The Hidden Creature Gallery** — Christian Leavesley (Australia) & Jolyon James (Australia);

20). **Theatre laboratories: experiments on the future** — by Yulia Kleiman (Russia);

21). **Everywhere is a Doorway** — by Stefanie Robinson (Australia) & Mischa Long (Australia);
5.5 Multicultural Dialogues

**Dialogue 1: Language and Art — Educational Dialogue of Teenager Theatre**
Participants: Teens from Europe, US and China; Facilitator: Yang Cheng (China)

**Dialogue 2: The Influence of Eastern and Western Culture on the View of Children's Theatre**
Speakers: Yin Xiaodong (China), Asaya Fujita (Japan), Henrik Køhler (Denmark) & Stefan Fischer-Fels (Germany); Facilitator: Mao Ernan (China)
5.6 China Day Event

5.7 Conference of The BRICS Alliance of Children’s Theatres
5.8 ASSITEJ Asia Work Meeting

5.9 Cultural and Art Themed Summer Camp
5.10 Children’s Books Reading Experience Day

5.11 Books and Photos Exhibition
5.12 IIAN Activities

Supported by the famous actor of China National Theatre for Children (CNTC), Mr. Xu Yajun, CNTC has held a public benefit show for children from Beijing Sun Village, a special school for children of criminals on Aug. 18th afternoon. This activity is also a part of International Inclusivity Arts Network (IIAN), a professional network of ASSITEJ.

![Image of children at the event]

5.13 Closing Ceremony

On August 24th, the closing ceremony of ASSITEJ is held successfully in CPAFFC. President of ASSITEJ Ms. Yivite President of CNTC Mr. Yin Xiaodong deliver important speeches. Mr. Yin said that “Under the joint efforts of CNTC, China Children’s Drama Society and ASSITEJ, the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering has come to a fruitful and triumphant end. I firmly believe that this gathering has established itself as a brand new starting point, an opportunity for international delegates to make friends, broaden their views, deepen cooperation, provide an artistic foundation for children all around the world, and embark on a new journey from Beijing! The ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering invites people from all over the world to one place, to act as a bridge. It is a bridge through which we sow the seeds of
friendship to the world, bringing us closer together. It is a bridge of cooperation, through which we learn from each other to deepen our collaboration. It is a bridge through which we imagine the future and move forward hand in hand.”

Yvette also spoke highly of the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018: “thanks ASSITEJ China for your tremendous efforts, planning and teamwork, which have gone into creating the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 and ensuring that it is such an inspiring and successful event on so many levels. For all the incredible hard work, the investment of thought, time, energy, resources and for your open-hearted welcome of us all, thank you very much. Here in Beijing, we have had many opportunities for genuine exchanges and sharing, particularly through the three Artistic Encounters, the Next Generation programme and the workshop programme. We have had many opportunities for experiencing and reflecting on performances from China and from many other parts of the world. We have done a lot of thinking and hard work, looking towards the future of the Association, and we have connected in many ways with different people. We have been hosted most generously by ASSITEJ China and we have been able to enjoy a variety of events and experiences together.”

On the Closing Ceremony, Louis Valen has read the content of BEIJING DECLARATION, and ASSITEJ China also passed the ASSITEJ flag to ASSITEJ Norway, the host of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2019.
6 Beijing Declaration

The ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018, for the first time, held in Beijing from August 18th to 24th, 2018, with a participation of over 500 delegates of theatre for children and young people from China and abroad. Under the principles of sharing resources for mutual benefits and win-win cooperation, fostering closer cooperation for joint development, based on fully communication of Artistic Encounters, after view exchange and discussion between ASSITEJ International Executive Committee and ASSITEJ China, The TYA Practitioner’s Manifesto was reached, which is either called Beijing Declaration.

The Beijing Declaration not only gives an expression of the consensus reached by the ASSITEJ Executive Committee and ASSITEJ China, the hosts of the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering, around the future actions for the purpose of promoting the international cooperation and development of theatre for young audiences. It also reflects the art principles that the TYA practitioners whom attended the Artistic Encounters pursuing. We Hereby Agree:

1. To consolidate and deepen the existing mechanisms for exchange and cooperation. Many national centers have built mechanisms for exchange and cooperation with each other, and many have relationships with China; for example, the BRICS Alliance of theatre for Children and Young People, and the Asia TYA network. We will support the building of bilateral and multilateral relationships between theatrical companies, as well as between national centers and institutions. Cooperation is to be strengthened while the existing mechanisms playing a more important role in facilitating more cooperation achievements.

2. To share resources and channels of communication. Frequent visits and exchanges between artists, companies, and arts institutions are to be promoted to facilitate mutual understanding and to share experiences. Cooperation with art festivals around the world is an important media for exchange. We encourage arts institutions of different countries to recommend outstanding shows. Mechanisms should be created so that young audiences can get easy access to diverse international theatre for children and young people.
3. To share experiences and learn from others in the field of theatre education for children and young people. Those with successful experiences in this field are encouraged to share their own best practices willingly. We should learn from other’s strong points while overcoming one’s short points, work jointly to improve the quality of theatre education.

4. To support TYA practitioners in realizing the vision of the TYA Practitioners manifesto as ASSITEJ works on the dramaturgy: Towards the Unknown over this three year period. As TYA practitioners imagining the future at the Artistic Encounter in Beijing 2018, we commit to the following principles while heading towards the unknown:

**Respect**- We recognize children and young people are full citizens of society whose voices deserve to be heard and valued. They are a collaborator in our process. We also regard our fellow artists with a spirit of generosity, sharing ideas, resources, and perspectives in order to make each other stronger.

**Accessibility**- We aim to present work that every child, regardless of cultural and social background, financial situation, geography and ability, can engage in.

**Inclusivity**- We will reflect all voices and diverse perspectives, in our work and workplaces.

**Innovation**- Acknowledging the power of cultural heritage, we embrace imaginative and challenging aesthetics, forms, ideas, disciplines and content.

**Exploration**- We create opportunities and collaborations where everyone can follow their personal curiosity and inspiration. We will review rigorously with children and other stakeholders our practices to learn from experience.

**Freedom**- We have the responsibility to create safe spaces where free expression is possible, where all can participate and ideas and knowledge are shared openly.

**Advocacy**- We empower our audiences and uphold the rights of the artist by enlightening the gatekeepers (teachers, politicians, families, theatres, decision makers, and funders) about all issues related to TYA and its creators.
7 Magazine of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

Through 12 articles from Chinese and International performing arts for young audiences’ practitioners, it explores the theme of the encounter: “Towards the unknown – Imagining the future”.

ASSITEJ
TOWARDS THE UNKNOWN IMAGINING THE FUTURE
THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF ASSITEJ 2018
面向未知 构想未来
——国际儿童青少年戏剧协会2018年年刊
8 Delegates’ Feelings and Feedbacks

Yvette Hardie (President of ASSITEJ) —— Fantastic Energy and engagement from delegates, well organized with opportunities for exchange and learning, well prepared and welcoming with excellent support staff, world have liked greater diversity of productions from China and Asia.

Louis Valente (Secretary General of ASSITEJ) —— Well prepared, flexible hosts, great artistic encounters and workshops, more diversity and productions.
Sue Giles (EC OF ASSITEJ, Australia)——It was an important and strategic occasion which gave many people their first taste of China and Chinese TYA.

Stefan Fisher-Fels (EC OF ASSITEJ, Germany)——Wonderful Hospitality, Wonderful City, Fruitful Dialogues and Encounters, Good Food, maybe you can find new ways to make sure that the festival presents real outstanding contemporary theatre from all over the world.
Tatiana Bobrova (ASSITEJ EC, Russia)—— It’s a big chance for all of us to see, to feel, to be inspiring, to stay together, to discuss and to open new path of children’s theatre.

Kenjiro Otani (ASSITEJ EC, Japan)—— It has a wonderful energy and everything is so well prepared and organized.
Daniel H. Fernandez (EC OF ASSITEJ, Argentina) —— The AAG18 was a very intense and interesting experience. I feel very comfortable about my week.

Seok-hong KIM (ASSITEJ EC, South Korea) —— Surprised by the hard working staff and the well-organized program.
Imran Khan (Secretary General of ASSITEJ)—My first time in China and what a fantastic festival and well organized. Spread across the city and beyond a perfect way for cultural and content exchange experience.

Bernard Mutambwawa (Delegate from ASSITEJ Zambia)—It was been a fantastic assembly. Views and experiences shared freely.
Paulo Merislo (Delegate from ASSITEJ Brazil)——I would like to thank you for the incredible experience with this festival in Beijing.

Janet Stanford (Delegate from USA)——Good program with lot to do and very well organized for the special guests.
Wlita Bartasiute (Delegate from Lithuania) —— It’s an amazing opportunity for cultures and people to meet. I am very happy and thankful to be part of it. I send my sincere thanks for the organizers.

Irina Iulia (Delegate from Russia) —— Good organization of the festival, great and rich programme.
ZHU Haiyan (Delegate from Anhui, China) —— Shocked, Surprised and Touched.

ZHANG Mengmeng (Delegate from Shandong, China) —— It brings more international contents to us, and also helped China to get close to the world. I have learned a lot during ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018.
CHE Erning (Delegate from Sichuan, China)—ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 was Children’s holiday, TYA practitioners’ big event and also a good opportunity to experience both Eastern and Western cultures.

LI Jing (Delegate from Jilin, China)—I was totally attracted and touched by the diverse shows and wonderful presentation and fusion of different cultures. AAG2018 can be regarded as a new kind of education to me, which inspired me with a new thinking.
9 Media Reports
10 Good Practices of ASSITEJ China

1) Frequent Communication and Precise Execution in Accordance with the Spirit of the Association and the Executive Committee

Ever since ASSITEJ China won the right to host the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering at the 19th ASSITEJ Conference in Cape Town, South Africa in May 2017, we have made every effort to keep in close touch with the executive committee, so as to
guarantee a successful event. We attended multiple meetings, carried out face-to-face discussions with the committee members on the progress of and solutions for the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering.

2) Detailed preparation, Planning and programs’ schedule, new special programs were added to the AAG's richness apart from the regular programs

ASSITEJ China had only one year to prepare for the 2018 Artistic Gathering since it won the opportunity to host it. So, it was a difficult task under a tight deadline. In an attempt to accomplish this task efficiently and deliver great results, ASSITEJ China, the CNTC in particular, came up with a timely and elaborate preparation plan and work schedule after consulting with the Executive Committee pertaining about all programs of the Artistic Gathering. Then Execution Plan for the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering was drafted, revised, and perfected after intensive discussions. Plans targeted at different programs, such as the ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters, workshops and the Next Generation Program, were established and carried out, guaranteeing a well-planned, systematic and efficient preparation of the Artistic Gathering.

Apart from the regular programs of the Artistic Gathering, ASSITEJ China, with its organizational advantage, also added many special programs with Chinese characteristics, such as the multicultural dialogues between the east and the west, a series of activities featuring the BRICS Alliance of Theaters for Children and Young People, the ASSITEJ Asian Artistic Gathering, the Chinese and Foreign theater for children and young people picture exhibition and the theater for children summer camp, which enriched the Artistic Gathering and enhanced its inclusiveness and influence.

3) Well-organized working teams, clear division of responsibility and effective collaboration

In 2018, the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering was held in China for the first time. In order to host a successful and unique event with pleasant surprises to offer, ASSITEJ China and the CNTC utilized all resources at their disposal with full effort. Led by the
chairman of ASSITEJ China, Yin Xiaodong, we set up an organizing committee and task teams, issued *Rules on Division of Responsibility of the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering Organizing Committee*, which explicated division of responsibility and staff composition for different tasks. All teams were led by members from the CNTC higher management. Working collaboratively and closely together, they ensured a steady progress of the preparation. The excellent organization and staff contributed great effort to the final success of the Artistic Gathering. All team members proved themselves to be responsible, capable, passionate, trustworthy and efficient.

4) Efficient Fundraising, Sensible Budget and Effective Fund Distribution
To be able to successfully host the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering within a safe budget, ASSITEJ China and the CNTC applied for financial support from multiple organs of the government and other organizations, such as the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the District Government of Dongcheng, Beijing, China Arts Fund and Beijing Culture and Art Fund. Also, the organizing committee created a detailed budget according to the execution plan and specific situation of each program. The budget was managed and distributed by the financial management section to ensure effective use of the money.

5) Regular Meetings and Effective Communication
ASSITEJ China set up an organizing committee and task teams. To ensure active and effective communication among all teams and a smooth progress of all tasks, the organizing committee came up with the norms of weekly meetings and in-team communicational meeting. Once a week, the chairperson of the committee gathered team leaders and relevant members for a briefing and discussions about collaboration-based solutions to all sorts of problems, as well as brainstorming ideas and innovative work methods. Furthermore, all teams held communicational meetings from time to time according to their work progress to arrange personnel to keep up with the schedule. Through all those means, the whole organizing force for the Artistic Gathering benefited from effective and smooth communication, and was able to stick...
to the schedule, therefore guaranteed the successful implementation of all plans and the success of all activities.

6) The Emphasis on Mutual Learning and International Exchange and Cooperation Manifested in Regional Communication Sections, Bilateral and Multilateral Meetings

One of the reasons why the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering was successful and fruitful was that ASSITEJ China thoughtfully created, for certain countries, regional communication sections and bilateral/multilateral meetings, such as the BRICS Alliance of Theaters for Children and Young People meeting, the ASSITEJ Asian Artistic Gathering, the China-Japan-Korea Talk on Cooperation and numerous bilateral meetings, promoting exchange and cooperation amongst representatives from all nations. Through a series of small-scale, face-to-face and targeted meetings and talks, the Artistic Gathering pragmatically and efficiently facilitated international communication and cooperation among professionals from the global community of theater for children.

7) Towards the future, Beijing Declaration was drafted and approved, which will provide a guideline for the Association's further development

Artistic Encounters have always been the highlight of every ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering. During the 2018 Artistic Gathering, three Artistic Encounters were held. Under the theme “Imagining the Future”, 200 Chinese and international theater for children practitioners carried out in-depth exploration into “Future Trend in International Theater for Children”, “Mutual Learning and Innovation in Future Productions of Theater for Children”, “Modes of Future International Exchange and Cooperation in Theater for Children”, “Practice and Innovation in Future Education of Theater for Children” in the forms of keynote speeches and group discussion. Together they made international exchange and mutual-learning between Chinese and foreign theater for children, exploring future development of and new ideas for theater for young audience and urging the international community of theater for children to
improve their awareness of quality cultural products.

Through group discussions at the three Artistic Encounters, the CNTC and ASSITEJ Executive Committee collected suggestions and opinions and reached consensus among all participants. After further deliberation, the terms of Beijing Declaration were finalized and were then announced by Secretary General Louis Valente.

8) Made targeted publicity plans, utilization of multiple media and platforms for promotion, increasing awareness and popularity of the AAG

It was the first time that the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering was held in China. In order to expand its influence and increase its brand awareness among Chinese citizens, and to familiarize and attract people from other ASSITEJ branches with the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering's different activities, highlights and regional characteristics, ASSITEJ China designed different plans for advertising and promotion targeted respectively at professionals, international guests, artists and the general public, and carried out separate, targeted, well-organized and step-by-step promotions. Furthermore, ASSITEJ China took the promotion campaign to television, radio, newspaper, the Internet, interactive media, video sites, live streaming platforms and social media, covering latest progress, posting real-time briefing, pushing activity-related information. It was widely reported by domestic and international press, initiating discussions among guests and attracting the public's attention and participation. Tickets to performances were sold out and activities were more than popular. All in all, the promotion was a great success.

9) Wide Participation (such as volunteers, private organizations, etc.)

Success of this Artistic Gathering would not have been possible without cooperation between the organizing committee and the ASSITEJ International, or the support and participation of the Chinese public.

The Artistic Gathering’s official partners, including The Palace Museum, China Arts and Entertainment Group, China International Culture Exchange Center, The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and China Publishing
Group Corp., had provided great support and collaboration in terms of venues, organizing, planning and promotion, greatly enriching the event and generating stronger influence. Performances of Chinese and International Theater for Children were given in Beijing and Tianjin. Not only the CNTC, China’s only national theater for children, but also the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), the Palace Museum, which the largest museum of ancient Chinese culture and arts, the Forbidden City Concert Hall and the Fengshang Theater in Dongcheng District Cultural Center, provided all the guests and audience with an exquisite journey to Chinese culture and the colorful world of children's theater. The seven major venues for performances included the Theater and the Multi-functional Theater at the NCPA, the Forbidden City Concert Hall, Fengshang Theater, Tianjin Guanghua Theater, the Art Theater and the Holiday Classic Theater at the CNTC.

During this Artistic Gathering, the organizing committee assembled a team of multilingual volunteers constituted by over 40 college students from eminent Beijing-based universities. After training, they were assigned to different teams responsible separately for international programs, Artistic Encounters, administrative
affairs, workshops and the Next Generation Program. The volunteers were responsible for translation, reception, venue services, guidance, etc. Their work was highly acknowledged and praised by all guests. There were reviews claiming that the volunteers at this Artistic Gathering were “the most heartwarming and impressive” ever.

11 Organizing Committee of ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

Presidium: Yin Xiaodong, Lei Xining, Feng Li, Shan Zenghong, Yang Fan, Zhao Hanbing, Ding Xiaojun, Ma Lu, Wang Lihong, Wang Yao, Che Erning, Tian Qingquan, Zhu Haiyan, Yang Chunrong, Tong Chunguang, Yang Xiang, Cai Jinping, Dai Bing;

President: Yin Xiaodong;

Vice President: Shan Zenghong, Yang Fan, Zhao Hanbing;

Secretary General: Yang Fan;

Executive Office Team:
Director: Sun Licheng; Vice Directors: Wang Dong, Dong Lei;

Executive Office-Staff: Sun Ming, Kong Simeng, Su Guiping, Zhang Shengjuan, Wang Zhen, Zhang Suyi;

Opening and Closing Ceremony Team:
Director: Shan Zenghong; Vice Director: Zhang Wei, Wang Jin;

Technicians: Jin Zilin, Yao Jianguo, Lu Na, Ji Xiaoli, Ci Longtao, Wang Hui;

Show Team:
Director: Zhao Hanbing

Vice Director: Sun Licheng, Wang Jin, Mao Ernan

Coordinator: Wang Dong, Sun Ming, Kong Simeng, Su Guiping, Zhang Shengjuan, Lu Na, Zhao Tingting, Ji Xiaoli, Yang Yang, Kang Chong, Sun Quan, Zhao Yi, Su Hong, Wu Yan, Tian Lei, Liu Chang, Ma Yaqiong, Duan Ning;
Program Team:
Director: Mao Ernan;
Coordinator: Kong Simeng, Ma Yaqiong, Sun Mengzhu, Duan Ning, Huang Lulu;

Technical and Logistic Team:
Directors: Zhang Wei, Wang Deqiu, Fu Yuping;
Coordinator: Jiao Liang, Xie Shunli, Liu Chang, Li Peng, Chen Feijun, Zhang Baoxing;

Advertising and Publicity Team:
Director: Gu Shulin, Wang Jin
Staff: Wang Wei, Zhou Lin, Chen Xi, Zhao Yeyang, Zhou Yumei, Ju Feige, Liu Zheng, Rong Yan, Wang Wei

12 Partners and Media Support