Rapid development of Chinese tea culture.

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Summary
China is the homeland of tea. Chinese tea culture has been developed for thousands years. Especially, it has been rapidly developed of the Chinese tea culture since last 2 decades as the door-open policy and reformation of Chinese economy. The rapid development can be seen from the following milestones: 1) Discovery and protection of historical remains of Chinese tea culture; 2) Establishment of organizations and associations on tea culture; 3) Frequent activities on tea culture; 4) Deeply researches and studies as well as publishing of papers and books on tea culture; 5) Recovery of historical famous teas and creation of new tea products; 6) Rapid developments of tea houses, creation and development of tea pots and sets, and improvement of tea arts; 7) Development of tea tourism; 8) Public awareness of tea culture and promotion of tea consumption; 9) Improvement of tea industry with development of tea culture; and 10) Promotion of civilization and social progress with social function of tea culture.

Keywords: Chinese tea culture, Development

China is homeland of tea. It has been developed of Chinese tea culture for thousands years, which takes important roles to human life and social development. Especially it has been rapidly developing since last 2 decades.

1. Discovery and protection of historical remains of Chinese tea culture

There have been a lot of findings and discoveries on tea antique and tea remains since last twenty years' archaeological investigation and activities. It is listed here some important findings:

- Golden and silver tea sets of royal society unearthed from Famen Temple in Shanxi province;
- In Guzhu mountain located in Changxing county, Zhejiang province, remain site of tribute tea house of Tang dynasty, Jinsha Spring and stone carving on tea stories;
- In Jianou, Fujian province, a whole article on tribute tea with 80 words, carved on the stone cliff in Song dynasty;
- In Xuanhua county, Hubei province, ancient tea sets and wall paintings on tea infusion and drinking from ancient tombs of Liao dynasty;
- Lots of wild tea trees growing in the original forests in Yunan province, from which a tallest one is 25 meters high with age of 2700 years!

The archaeological discoveries take very important roles on the study of tea history and tea culture.

2. Establishments of organizations and associations on tea culture
On December 1980, "Luyu Tea Arts Centre" was set up in Taiwan province. On August 1982, "Home of Tea Persons" was established Hangzhou, which was 1st tea association on tea culture in mainland of China. September 1982, Chinese Tea Arts Association was set up in Taiwan. February, 1983, "Xiamen House of Tea Person" was set up, and then lot of tea groups, like the tea groups in Hangzhou and Xiamen, were established in the cities of China.

In 1983, "Luyu Research Association" was established in Tianmen county, Hubei province. On October 1990, "Luyu Tea Culture Association" was set up in Huzhou city, Zhejiang province. In 1986, National Tea Museum was prepared to construction and the Museum was opened on April, 1994.

"1st International Symposium on Tea Culture" was held in Hangzhou, October 1990. China International Tea Culture Institute was come into existence, in 1993, which is an organisation on development and exchange of tea culture national widely. During recent years, several organisations, provincially and locally, on research and promotion of tea culture have been set up. Besides, similar groups have been also established in universities and research institutes. In 1992, "Association of Tea and Buddha" was come into existence.

In 1989, "Hong Kong Tea and Arts Centre" was set up. "Macao Tea Arts Association" was set up in 1997. Also in 1997, Pinglin Tea Museum, first tea museum in Taiwan, was completed and opened to public.

The establishment of the organisations, groups and museums promote actively the development and distribution as well as research and exchanges on tea culture.

3. Frequent activities on tea culture

After the establishing of "Home of Tea Person Hangzhou" in 1982, it organised often meetings and workshops on tea culture and history. September 1989, "1st Tea and Chinese Culture Week Show" was held in Beijing. In 1990, "Tea Culture Festival" was held in Hangzhou and after that there had been such festivals each year in the cities of China. These activities promotes both tea culture and tea economy.

In 1990, "1st International Symposium on Tea Culture" was held in Hangzhou and after that, the Symposium has been held once every 2 years. The Symposium and similar workshops promote greatly the development of tea culture through exchanging and discussing on the topics of tea culture and history.

Besides, There have been lots of tea activities with different contents and styles, such as tea workshops, tea competitions, tea banquets, tea drinking and tea paintings, etc. These tea cultural activities are welcomed by the popular and societies.

4. Deeply researches and studies as well as publishing of papers and books on tea culture
Since last 20 years, the team of tea culture research has been growing very fast with the frequent activities on tea culture. Apart from peoples whose backgrounds are in tea, it attracts lot of people involved in tea culture studies from the fields of social culture, history, culture relic, arts, news, commerce, foods, sanitation, etc. There are several periodicals publishing research results and papers on tea culture. These periodicals are Tea Culture Branch of Agricultural Archaeology, Chinese Tea Person, Tea Culture Exchanging, Tea Culture, Tea Arts Monthly, Journal of Luyu Studies, etc.

Since last 20 years, there are a lot of books and literature on tea culture published, not only on popularizing knowledge of tea culture, but also literature of papers, poems, photographs, paintings, etc. It is listed here some important tea books and literature: Collection of Historic Literature on Tea Culture, Review of Tea Classic, Chinese Tea Culture, China Tea Classic, All Ancient Tea Books China, Key Issues of Chinese Tea Culture, Dictionary of China Famous Tea, Dictionary of China Tea, China Tea Ceremony, Chinese Tea Arts, China – The Homeland of Tea, Tea Enjoyment, etc. CD-ROM version of Chinese Tea Culture has been also published.

5. Recovery of historical famous teas and creation of new tea products

It has been rapidly development of Chinese famous teas (premium tea with very good quality) with the changing of market and demands. In 2000, the production and value of sector famous tea reached 144,000 tons, taking account in 21.3% and 60% of total tea production and value, respectively.

Since last 20 years, the historical famous teas have been investigated and recovered in tea producing provinces. At same time, new products of famous teas have been created and developed based on the local history and culture, custom and scenery resources, as well as ecological characteristics. Consumers favour these new products.

Besides, competitive activities on famous teas have been frequently carried out, which stimulates and promotes the production and consumption of famous teas. At present, there are more 1,000 colourful famous teas with different nice shapes favours. It is a big progress of Chinese tea culture.

6. Rapid developments of tea shops, creation and development of tea sets, and improvement of tea arts

It has been opened of many teashops, tea art houses and tea bars with culture atmosphere with development of economy and progress of society. Especially in urban cities, teashops are coming up one after another.

Tea sets have been also innovated and developed since last 20 years under the driving of rapid development of tea culture. Zisha tea pots (red clay pots) made by craftsman from Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces are in important positions. Besides, there are colorful tea sets made from stone, porcelain, bamboos and woods, etc, for collections and admiring.
It has been also development of arts of tea preparing of last 20 years. There are lots of performs and shows on tea preparing.

7. Development of tea tourism

In tea producing provinces of China, there is large number of famous mountains with beautiful landscape as well as historical remains of culture, which are resources for tour industry. Famous teas produced from these famous scenery spots also attract tourists and visitors. Tea tours, which are well associated with scenery tours, have been growing and developing fast. These tea tours are also well associated with culture.

8. Public awareness of tea culture and promotion of tea consumption

With the development of tea culture, the disseminations and public awareness of tea culture have been strengthened with public medias including radio broadcast, TV programs, newspapers, etc. Besides, shows at exhibitions and museums as well as book publishing on tea culture also promote the popularisation and dissemination of tea culture.

Professional education and training on tea culture and tea arts and tea ceremony have been developing during recent years. Courses of tea culture have been set up in universities and colleges. Furthermore, education of tea culture for children are another important role for dissemination of tea culture and tea arts.

9. Improvement of tea industry with development of tea culture

Tea consumption has been greatly promoted with the development tea culture, especially the activities such as tea culture festivals, tea exhibitions, tea fairs, tea competitions, tea tours, etc, which is greatly benefited to tea industry.

10. Health benefits of tea and social function of tea culture

Researches and investigations on tea and human health have been carrying out and notable results have been reached since last 20 years. As the progress on tea and human health, there are more and more people drinking tea as the health benefits. There are close relations between health benefits of tea and tea culture, and both of them are to promote the levels of human life and human civilisation.

It has been great progress and development of tea culture since last 2 decades. We are now in 21 century and the it is no doubt that tea culture will be more developed in the new century. On the other hand, Chinese tea culture will contribute more to the human life and civilisation in the world.