

## Important Facts

- Current year (2010):
  - World Expo takes place in Shanghai on May 1 – October 31, 2010. This is the first time a World Expo is hosted in China
- Last year (2009):
  - The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the People's Republic of China
  - The 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra (SSO)
  - The first SSO North American tour since 2003, the single most important tour in SSO's history
- Long YU:
  - One of the most distinguished Chinese conductors with an established international reputation.
  - Co-founded the China Philharmonic Orchestra and was appointed Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.
  - Music Director of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra since 2003
  - Co-founder and Artistic Director of the Beijing Music Festival; President of the Beijing Music Festival Arts Foundation since 2005.
  - President of the Artistic Committee of the Shanghai Oriental Center
  - Has appeared with the world's major orchestras and opera companies including the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the national Symphony Orchestra, the Hamburg State Opera, among others
  - Upcoming engagements include Orchestre de Paris, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, among others
  - In 1992 was involved in organizing the inaugural Beijing New Year's Concert, now an annual event, and served as its conductor for 3 years.
- Shanghai Symphony Orchestra:
  - In the Fall of 2009 Long Yu began his inaugural season as the Music Director of SSO
  - The oldest and most prominent symphony orchestra in Asia, crucial part of the classical music scene in China
  - Promoted Western music and supported young Chinese musicians since its earliest days
  - Introduced the first Chinese orchestral work to the audience; epicenter of new music in China
  - Reputed to be "the best orchestra in the Far East"
  - The history of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra represents the history of China's symphonic music development
  - Has given over then thousand concerts, including premiers of several thousand new works
  - Made its Carnegie Hall debut in 1990
  - The first Chinese orchestra to play at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall; this concert marked SSO's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### 12 Fun Facts about the World Expo 2010 Shanghai

- The Expo is open from May 1 to October 31, 2010
- 246 countries and organizations are participating in the Expo
- 154 pavilions have been built
- 17,000 volunteers are involved
- In the first month alone the Expo has attracted the total of 8,713,400 visitors
- Expo site covers a total area of 5.28 square kilometers
- Lang Lang, Yao Ming and Jackie Chan have been appointed Global Ambassadors for the World Expo 2010 Shanghai
- The first World Expo was held in London, opened on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1851, lasted for 160 days
- Shanghai Expo 2010 is the 41<sup>st</sup> World Expo
- Shanghai is the 25<sup>th</sup> city and China is the 14<sup>th</sup> country to host a World Expo
- 28.6 billion RMB (over 4 billion US Dollars) has been invested directly into the Expo
- HAIBAO, the mascot of the Shanghai Expo was “born” on Dec. 18, 2007 at 8:00PM in Shanghai, it was officially announced at that time