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## OSC Report: Hot Topics of Discussion Among PRC Internet Users, 20-26 Aug 2010

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The following report covers the top most-read or most-discussed news stories or bulletin board (BBS) postings -- based in most cases on the sites' own metrics -- on selected PRC websites from the period 20 - 26 August 2010.

The websites cited below were selected because they all provide convenient metrics indicating their most popular postings. Renmin Wang and Xinhua Wang are included as representatives of major state- or party-affiliated portals, while Tencent (QQ) and Sina are two of China's most popular commercial, for-profit websites. The Renmin Wang Public Opinion Monitoring Office's top ten hot postings are also included because they are issued by an official source and purport to measure the most popular postings on the Chinese internet as a whole.

### Renmin Wang Public Opinion Monitoring Office Top 10 PRC Internet Postings

On 26 August, according to the website of the Renmin Wang Public Opinion Monitoring Office (<http://yq.people.com.cn>), also known as the Renmin Ribao Internet Center Public Opinion Monitoring Office, all of the top 10 hot postings for the period 20 -- 26 August originated on popular commercial BBS Tianya Shequ ([www.tianya.cn](http://www.tianya.cn)). The Renmin Wang Public Opinion Monitoring Office is a public opinion research institute that cooperates with experts from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [CASS], Beijing University [Peking University], and Qinghua University [Tsinghua University], and conducts round-the-clock monitoring of internet media including online versions of traditional news media, internet news portals, BBS, microblogs, and influential bloggers. Renmin Wang ([www.people.com.cn](http://www.people.com.cn)) is a portal affiliated with Renmin Ribao [People's Daily], the official newspaper of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Following are the top 10 articles or postings -- based on the number of written responses to the original item, not on the number of page views -- across the PRC internet as a whole on 26 August, as calculated by Renmin Wang Public Opinion Monitoring Office:

- 1) A Tianya Shequ posting that discussed the legacy of the Qing Dynasty. Dated 20 August, the posting was viewed 276,776 times, generating 3,578 responses.
- 2) A Tianya Shequ posting that commented on the Philippines hostage incident involving Hong Kong tourists. Dated 24 August, the posting was viewed 331,937 times, generating 2,357 hits.
- 3) A Tianya Shequ posting that dealt with the arrest of a human smuggler/trafficker. Dated 23 August, the posting was

viewed 226,310 times, generating 1,649 hits.

4) A Tianya Shequ posting about a man who was solicited by prostitutes. Dated 20 August, this posting was viewed 144,864 times, generating 2,389 responses.

5) A Tianya Shequ posting that criticized Filipinos over the hostage incident. Dated 24 August, this posting was viewed 173,517 times, generating 1,059 responses.

6) A Tianya Shequ posting about a couple who were removed from their posts after an online video showing the wife slapping a tour guide in the face triggered public anger. Dated 20 August, the posting was viewed 163,597 times, generating 1,112 responses.

7) A Tianya Shequ posting about the body proportions of Asians. Dated 20 August, the posting was viewed 126,218 times, generating 1,068 responses.

8) A Tianya Shequ posting that compared three historical leaders with respect to their tackling of corruption. Dated 22 August, the posting was viewed 101,111 times, generating 1,365 responses.

9) A Tianya Shequ posting about Li Mengmeng, a student from a rural village who earlier missed the deadline for college enrolment due to a mistake by a government officer. Li was finally admitted to a college after public outcry. Dated 20 August, the posting was viewed 119,181 times, generating 806 responses.

10) A Tianya Shequ posting by student Li Mengmeng who thanked netizens for helping her to be admitted to a college. Dated 20 August, the posting was viewed 96,183 times, generating 942 responses.

#### **Top Five Most-Read Postings on Official Media-Affiliated BBS**

Following are the top five most-read postings on 26 August -- according to site metrics -- on Qiangguo Luntan [Strong Nation Forum], a BBS on Renmin Wang.

1) A posting that claimed the 17 August crash of a DPRK air force jet in Liaoning exposed loopholes in China's air defense capability. Dated 20 August, this posting was viewed 107,591 times, generating 156 responses.

2) A posting that claimed the United States "masterminded" the Ch'o'nan [Cheonan] incident in an attempt to suppress China's strategic space and contain China's rise. Many respondents claimed that there is no need to be scared of the United States and described the United States as a "paper tiger" and a "jackal." Some respondents argued that the United States, "faced with troubles at home and from abroad," cannot afford to offend a rising China. Dated 23 August, this posting was viewed 67,497 times, generating 44 responses.

3) A posting that blasted the Philippine Government for mishandling the hostage incident. Dated 25 August, this posting was viewed 67,860 times, generating 208 responses.

4) A posting that listed selected "astonishing quotes" by netizens. Dated 22 August, this posting was viewed 63,977 times, generating 220 responses.

5) A posting about the controversy over the authenticity of the photo which won the "golden lens" award. Dated 21 August, this posting was viewed 56,963 times, generating 56 responses.

Following are the top five most-read postings -- per site metrics -- observed on the BBS of Xinhua Wang ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com)), the web portal of China's state press agency Xinhua, on 26 August.

- 1) A posting about the livelihood of prostitutes following the "anti-pornography campaign" in Chengdu. Dated 25 August, the posting was viewed 139,927 times, generating 60 responses.
- 2) A posting that reviewed rising prices on the mainland over the past three decades. Dated 23 August, the posting was viewed 94,567 times, generating 33 responses.
- 3) A posting that posted a photograph of the daughter-in-law of late Chinese military leader Lin Biao. Dated 20 August, the posting was viewed 70,598 times, generating 29 responses.
- 4) A posting that claimed the new round of provincial and ministerial-level personnel reshuffles has many officials who are experienced with economic issues moving to the central and western regions. Dated 23 August, the posting was viewed 65,584 times, generating 102 responses.
- 5) A posting about an audio recording of the head of a transport bureau in Hunan Province scolding a citizen. Dated 20 August, the posting was viewed 61,449 times, generating 106 responses.

### **Top Five Most-Read Postings on Popular Commercial Portals**

Following are topics from the top five most-read postings on 26 August as calculated by the "news" section of the BBS of popular PRC commercial web portal Tencent (Tengxun Wang; QQ; www.qq.com). Tencent is the second most popular website in China -- after search engine Baidu (www.baidu.com) -- according to international web rating company Alexa (www.alexa.com, 26 August).

- 1) A posting that listed the weirdest workplace rules around the world. Dated 22 August, the posting was viewed 1,689,176 times, generating 877 responses.
- 2) A posting that criticized the Filipino police for mishandling the hostage incident involving Hong Kong tourists. Dated 24 August, the posting was viewed 112,563 times, generating 1,065 responses.
- 3) A posting that called the Filipino police "pigs." Dated 24 August, the posting was viewed 94,312 times, generating 981 responses.
- 4) A posting that discussed the risk of female migrant workers being sexually assaulted. Dated 23 August, the posting was viewed 67,797 times, generating 343 responses.
- 5) A posting about the selection process of air stewards in China. Dated 24 August, the posting was viewed 676,282 times, generating 257 responses [ranking as published].

Following are the top five most-read postings on 26 August -- per site metrics -- on the BBS of popular PRC commercial web portal Sina (Xinlang Wang; www.sina.com.cn). Sina is the fourth most popular web domain in mainland China, following Baidu, Tencent, and trade website Taobao (www.taobao.com), according to Alexa (26 August).

- 1) A posting that carried a report on a mafia-style gang in Shenzhen. Dated 23 August, the posting was viewed 288,845 times, generating 160 responses.
- 2) A posting about a Shanghai man from a rich family chasing a girl. Dated 25 August, the posting was viewed 278,380 times, generating 51 responses.
- 3) A posting that carried the details of four automobile exhibitions. Dated 9 June, the posting was viewed 247,945 times, generating 104 responses.

4) A posting about a wedding dinner in the countryside in Sichuan Province. Dated 23 June, the posting was viewed 234,287 times, generating 172 responses.

5) A posting that cited the "irresponsible" remarks by a school teacher. Dated 21 August, the posting was viewed 175,360 times, generating 325 responses.

Source Note: The following report provides a sampling of comments observed by OSC on a selected set of websites frequented by Chinese-language users. The views detailed in this report should not be considered representative of public opinion in China generally or of Chinese internet users in particular. OSC is generally unable to verify the identity or location of posters or readers of these online comments. Furthermore, OSC is unable to verify the extent of censorship or manipulation of this online discussion, including potential efforts to shape public opinion by commentators acting on behalf of party, government, or other organizations. Users based in the PRC may need to use circumvention tools to access blocked websites outside the PRC. Information is user-provided and may be false or incorrect.

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