

## The art of kung fu bullfighting

Chinese variant of the Spanish fight does not involve swords or gore

**JIAXING (China):** Several times a week, kung fu teacher Ren Ruzhi enters a ring to spar with a bovine opponent around five times his weight and capable of killing him.

Ren's mixing of martial arts and bullfighting worries his mother, but the 24-year-old has never been hurt.

Besides, he says, grappling with a snorting bull is exciting.

"It symbolises the bravery of a man," Ren said.

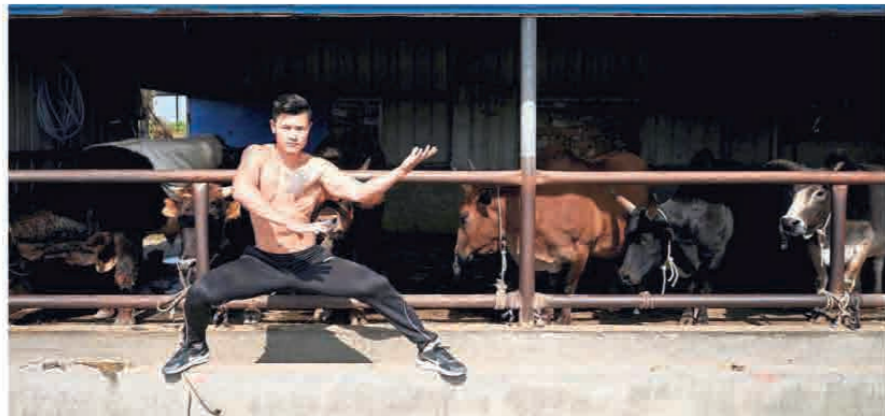
Unlike Spain's more famous sport, the Chinese variant of bullfighting involves no swords or gore but instead fuses the moves of wrestling with the skill and speed of kung fu to bring down beasts weighing up to 400kg.

"Spanish bullfighting is more like a performance or a show," said Hua Yang, a 41-year-old enthusiast.

"This (the Chinese variety) is truly a contest pitting a human's strength against a bull. There are a lot of skills involved and it can be dangerous."

The physically demanding sport requires fighters to train intensively and they typically have short careers, said Han Haihua, a former pro wrestler who coaches bullfighters at his Haihua Kung fu School.

Han calls the bullfighting style he teaches "the explosive power of hard 'qigong'", saying it combines the skill and speed of martial arts with traditional wrestling techniques.



**Master of his art:** Ren posing at the bull stable of the Haihua Kung-fu School in Jiaxing, Zhejiang province, China. — Reuters

Typically, a fighter approaches the bull head on, grabs its horns and twists, turning its head until the bull topples over.

"What do I mean by explosive power?" Han asked.

"In a flash! Pow! Concentrate all your power on one point. All of a sudden, in a flash, wrestle it to the ground."

If the first fighter gets tired, another one can step into the ring, but they have just three minutes in which to wrestle the bull to the

ground or lose the bout.

The bulls, too, are trained before entering the ring, Han said, and learn themselves how to spread their legs or find a corner to brace against being taken down.

"A bull can also think like a human, they are smart," Han added.

Although he says his bulls get better treatment than the animals involved in the Spanish sport, animal rights activists believe Chinese bullfighting is still painful for the animals and cruel as a form

**(Grappling a snorting bull) symbolises the bravery of a man.**

Ren Ruzhi

of entertainment.

"In Chinese bullfighting, we cannot deny the bulls experience pain," said Layli Li, a spokeswoman for animal welfare group Peta.

"As long as it exists, that means there is suffering." — Reuters



**Skilled fighter:** Ren showing off his kung-fu skills before a bullfight event. — Reuters

STARMETRO, TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018

## Building springboard for export growth

Furniture council gets Dr M's support to help industry achieve target



The Malaysian furniture industry is on track to achieving RM20bil in exports by 2025, according to the Malaysian Furniture Council (MFC).

Its president Chua Chun Chai said the furniture industry would achieve the target through ensuring a robust 10% year-on-year growth.

The council briefed Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the industry's plans to drive growth in the local furniture industry and expand furniture exports from Malaysia in a recent meeting.

Among MFC's proposals highlighted during the meeting were fast-track approval for foreign workers and reimplementation of foreign worker replacement policy to secure sufficient workforce, as well as for state governments to provide land and loans for planting of high-yield rubber trees to ensure sufficient supply.

"The key drivers for furniture industry growth include adequate supply of labour and rubberwood raw material," Chua said.

MFC also expressed commitment working with the Government to ensure the furniture industry is well-supported to meet targets.

Chua said Dr Mahathir encouraged industry players to work together with research institutions to reach greater heights.

He added that the prime minister hoped there could be more research on alternative timber materials for furniture production, given the current high price of rubberwood.

MFC deputy president Andy Ng You Choon said the furniture industry growth could be enhanced by having new designated industrial zones in the northern, central and southern regions with the support of state governments.

Vice-president Jamaludin Che Murad also briefed Dr Mahathir on the present status of the bumphutra furniture industry. Issues of strict regulation on the furniture industry were also raised during the meeting.

MFC adviser Sunny Ter and Jamaludin said MFC had in 2013 and 2017 requested the removal of furniture (HS code 9403) from the Customs (Prohibition of Exports) Order. This order makes it compulsory for each consignment of furniture to obtain an export licence.

It was learnt that the prime minister took note and would seek clarification on this matter.

Ng said the industry hoped that the Wood-Based Industry (State Legislatures Competency) Act requiring furniture plants to obtain licences from the



Dr Mahathir receiving a portrait as a gift from Chua (sixth from left) and Jamaludin (fifth from right), together with other executives from the Malaysian Furniture Council.

**The key drivers for furniture industry include adequate supply of labour and rubberwood raw materials.**

Chua Chun Chai

Forestry Department, which would be fully enforced next year, could be deferred, and subsequently, exclude furniture mill from the act.

Ter shared that from 1986 to 2005, with the First and Second Industrial Master Plans, the Malaysian furniture industry experienced exponential growth in exports from RM40mil to RM7.5bil due to the Government facilitating value-added downstream manufacturing process.

Growth has been moderating at a rate of 2.5% per year between 2006 and 2017. The industry managed to achieve RM10.14bil in exports in 2017, and hoped for Government support in terms of policies, facilitating measures, industrial plans and cooperation, he added.

Chua said Dr Mahathir's response was encouraging.

"The Prime Minister expressed support for the industry and looked forward to Malaysia's continuous growth in furniture exports. We sincerely hope Government can reduce red tape such as export licence in order to facilitate furniture exports.

"In fact, from 2013, Malaysian furniture exports in terms of US dollars did not achieve the expected growth as the industry expressed reluctance to expand production owing to uncertainty in manufacturing inputs and excessive regulation stifling the industry," he noted.

### EDUCATION & FURTHER STUDIES fair

**15 - 16 Dec 2018**  
Sat - Sun  
**MID VALLEY EXHIBITION CENTRE**  
Halls 1, 2, 3, Atrium + Foyer  
11:00 am - 7:00 pm  
(FREE Admission)

**Count Down 4 days**

Brought to you by **www.sureworks.info**

15 Dec, Saturday		16 Dec, Sunday	
UNDERSTANDING YOUR PERSONALITY	12.00 - 1.00pm	OPTIONS AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOL	12.00 - 1.00pm
STUDYING OVERSEAS	1.15 - 1.30pm	CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	1.15 - 1.30pm
CAREERS IN MEDICINE	2.30 - 1.30pm	21 <sup>st</sup> CENTURY CAREERS IN EDUCATION	2.30 - 1.30pm
CAREERS IN BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT	3.45 - 4.45pm	CAREERS IN ENGINEERING	3.45 - 4.45pm
TIPS ON MAKING SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS	5.00 - 6.00pm	CAREERS IN ACCOUNTING	5.00 - 6.00pm

**\* Everything on Further Studies (Local & Abroad) ...**

- ... Courses : Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees, Masters, PhDs, etc ...
- ... Skill Training : Automotive, Music, Baking, Cooking, Beauty, Hair-Styling, etc ...
- ... Scholarships & Fee Subsidy by PTPN & Hai Qing Programmes ...

**\* At the Fair ...**

- ... CAREER GUIDANCE TEST (KUBOS) at DISCOUNTED RATE by Enrich Counselling & Therapy Centre ...
- FREE** ... course/malaysia Magazine ...
- ... Further Study Intelligence (FSI) Magazine - 2019 FSI Complete Guide of Further Study ...
- ... easyuni.my Magazine ...

**FREE** copies of the Fair Directory and Info on Fee Waivers, Discounts & Scholarships for students and parents who visit the fair (while stock last)

**Fun Quiz Spin Win**

Meet up with DJ **Ding & Angelina**  
Saturday, 15 December | 12pm - 3pm

**Exciting Prizes & Fun Activities Await You!**

Prizes include: 2x Mini iPad, Food Vouchers & many more...

**GRAND PRIZES:**  
4 x RM5,000 Cash Course Voucher  
4 x RM5,000 Cash Course Voucher  
4 x RM5,000 Cash Course Voucher  
4 x RM5,000 Cash Course Voucher

**SURE WORKS** **www.sureworks.info**

**SPM, STPM & UEC school leavers, see you soon!**

Supported By: **Coursea**, **easyuni**, **UPE**, **UPE**, **UPE**

Fun Quiz Spin & Win Prize Sponsors: **SAKAI SUSHI**, **LARRIE**, **UPE**

### MFC MALAYSIAN FURNITURE COUNCIL

### EXPORT FURNITURE EXHIBITION

9-12 MARCH 2019 KLCC MALAYSIA

### FINE FURNITURE, WORLD MARKET

**SOLD More than 90%**

### EXHIBITION'S HIGHLIGHTS

## EXPORT TO US PAVILION

*Celebrating 15th Anniversary*

**Booking Hotline: +6012-787 6332 / +603 6270 9332**

Presented by: MFC  
Organized by: EFE  
Endorsed by: Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Investment, Development and Economic Transformation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Public Relations, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Planning, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Investment, Development and Economic Transformation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Public Relations, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Planning, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology, Ministry of Defence