

The Asian Reporter

Pacific Northwest News □ Volume 29 Number 4 □ February 18, 2019 □ www.asianreporter.com

Asia welcomes Year of the Pig with banquets, temple visits, and more



FIERY WELCOME. A fire-eater performs during celebrations of the Lunar New Year in the Chinatown district of Manila, the Philippines. 2019 welcomes the Year of the Pig in the lunar calendar. People born under the sign of the Pig are generally considered to be caring, charitable, generous, outgoing individuals who are sincere and genuine. They are also known for their tendency to be pessimistic and can be materialistic and stingy. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

BEIJING (AP) — Asia welcomed the Lunar Year of the Pig with visits to temples, family banquets, and the world's biggest travel spree.

Celebrations took place throughout the region, from Beijing and Seoul to Hanoi and Singapore.

The streets of Beijing and other major

Chinese cities were quiet and empty after millions of people left to visit relatives or travel abroad during the year's biggest family holiday.

Families gathered at home for multigenerational banquets. Companies, shops, and government offices closed for official holidays that ranged from two days

in South Korea to a week in China.

Worshippers stood in line for hours at Hong Kong's Wong Tai Sin Temple to welcome the new year by lighting incense.

Lana Wong, a prominent Hong Kong actress, wore a pig costume for the event.

"My first wish is for world peace," said Wong, 88. "Everyone has food to eat,

employment, and houses to live in. The elderly also hope the government will take better care of them."

In Beijing, performers in traditional Qing dynasty robes strummed zithers for a re-enactment at sunrise of a sacrificial ceremony at the Chinese capital's Temple

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safe and
prosperous
Year of
the Pig!!

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