MARCH 2026
Issue 3

SHIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Beijing Shiology Research Center
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Editor's Note

This issue highlights recent institutional developments, global expert voices, and emerging collaborations, marking a transition from concept building to broader international engagement. Readers will find news on the establishment of the Shiology Committee under the China Society of Vocational and Technical Education; insights from Tom Heilandt, Former Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (FAO/WHO) and Senior Advisor to the World Shiology Forum; an expert interview with Walter Belik, Deputy Director-General of the Zero Hunger Institute; an introduction to the concept of Shiance; and opportunities to get involved.

We invite you not only to read, but to participate—explore, engage, and consider how you or your institution can help shape the future of food systems.

Editorial Team
Shiology Newsletter

News and Updates

Shiology Committee Established Under the China Society of Vocational and Technical Education



On January 24 in Beijing, the Shiology Committee was officially established, bringing together nearly 300 participants from education authorities, universities, research institutions, industry associations, and leading enterprises.

The Committee is dedicated to advancing Shiology as an interdisciplinary field within vocational and applied education, integrating food studies, nutrition, health sciences, and food systems governance. Its mission includes promoting talent development, curriculum innovation, and closer collaboration between academia and industry.

At the inaugural meeting, the Committee adopted its governance charter, elected its first Executive Committee, and appointed Liu Guangwei and Zhao Aiqin as Co-Directors. A 33-member Expert Advisory Committee was formed, and a three-year action plan focusing on academic exchange and international cooperation was approved.

The establishment of the Shiology Committee marks a significant step towards the structured and coordinated development of Shiology education in China.

Voices from the Global Community

Tom Heilandt, Former Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (FAO/WHO), Senior Advisor of the World Shiology Forum

At the 5th World Shiology Forum in Hainan, Tom Heilandt reflected on his early engagement with Shiology. He emphasized its commitment to asking the right questions, setting forward-looking standards, and embracing complexity—while always keeping the human being, the eater, at the center of food systems design.

As an advisor to the Global Food Systems & SDGs Report, Heilandt noted that the report is not merely evaluative, but transformative. By identifying "five Eater Needs", it provides a structured framework for rethinking how food systems are designed and governed.

He stressed that understanding food systems requires a multidimensional perspective—"like navigating a city in three dimensions rather than a flat 2D map." Citing the UN Secretary-General, he observed that holistic principles can help illuminate pathways toward systemic reform.

With 2030 approaching, Heilandt called for renewed action across policy, education, community practice, and international cooperation.

To watch the video of the opening remarks, please click the following link:

http://shiology.easteat.com/Tom.mp4

Expert Interview

Interview with Walter Belik, Deputy Director-General of Zero Hunger Institute

Professor Walter Belik shares his views on Brazil's food system challenges, national policy responses, and the urgent need for global food system reform aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Q: What are the key challenges in Brazil's food system?

A: First, persistent poverty continues to restrict food access for large segments of the population.

Second, Brazil faces a dual burden of malnutrition, with undernutrition and obesity coexisting as outcomes of the same dysfunctional system.

Third, highly globalized and unsustainable food systems have weakened local food cultures and harmed social and environmental sustainability.

Q: Which policy responses have shown progress?

A: Brazil has made notable progress in addressing hunger through integrated public policies. Conditional cash transfer programs increase household purchasing power, while school meal programs, community kitchens, and subsidized restaurants provide affordable or free meals to vulnerable populations. Together, these measures have strengthened food security and improved dietary access.

Q: How do you assess the global food system today?

A: The current global food system is failing to address both undernutrition and obesity adequately. Structural reform is urgently required, with greater emphasis on sustainable production and universal access to healthy diets. Expanding commodity supply alone—especially ultra-processed foods—is not a viable long-term solution.

Professor Belik supports the eater–food–governance framework and underscores the importance of revitalizing local food systems, shortening supply chains, and rebuilding healthier relationships between people and food as foundations for sustainable transformation.

Understanding Shiology

In this issue, we introduce the concept of Shiance, a foundational term for understanding Shiology.

Shiance refers to the full range of human activities related to acquiring, producing, preparing, regulating, and consuming food. It encompasses not only eating and drinking for survival and health, but also cultivation, breeding, processing, culinary practices, fermentation, and the legal, economic, administrative, and educational systems that sustain food order.

Historically, food-related activity precedes most other organized forms of social life. In this sense, Shiance is foundational to civilization itself.

Shiology takes shiance as its core object of study. It examines the interconnected domains of eater needs, food acquisition systems, and governance structures, offering a broader analytical framework than conventional agricultural or nutritional studies.

Community Contributions & Get Involved

We sincerely thank Roberto Alfaro-Alejo of the National University of Peru for recommending Pedro Chávez Sanabria from IPTA (Paraguay), and Hossein Azadi for recommending Carmen Soares, Full Professor at the University of Coimbra, as contributors to the Global Food Systems & SDGs Report.

Peer nominations play a vital role in strengthening the global expert network behind the report. We especially welcome recommendations from countries not yet represented among the contributors, helping ensure a truly global perspective on food systems.

Contribute to the Global Food Systems & SDGs Report (2026)

Scholars, practitioners, and institutions are invited to participate as co-authors or recommenders of expert contributors.

Nominate an expert:

https://form.jotform.com/260391203248047

Please watch the report introduction video:

http://shiology.easteat.com/Global%20Food%20Systems%20%26%20SDGs%20Report.mp4

Join the World Shiology Organization (WSO)

Institutions from Asia, Europe, Oceania, Africa and the Americas have already applied to join WSO as Founding Institutions, including Visayas State University, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT), and International Federation for Sustainability and Justice (IFSJ). We warmly welcome more institutions to join the founding phase.

Apply here:

http://shiology.easteat.com/Application%20Form%20for%20Founding%20Institutions%20of%20the%20World%20Shiology%20Organization.docx