THEN AND NOW
Looking Back and Imagining the Future of Chinese Civil Society
The Made in China Journal is a quarterly on Chinese labour, civil society, and rights. This project has been produced with the financial assistance of the Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW), The Australian National University, and the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University. The views expressed are those of the individual authors and do not represent the views of CIW, Lund University, or the institutions to which the authors are affiliated.
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The *Made in China Journal* (MIC) is a publication focussing on labour, civil society, and human rights in China. It is founded on the belief that spreading awareness of the complexities and nuances underpinning socioeconomic change in contemporary Chinese society is important, especially considering how in today's globalised world Chinese labour issues have reverberations that go well beyond national borders. MIC rests on two pillars: the conviction that today, more than ever, it is necessary to bridge the gap between the scholarly community and the general public, and the related belief that open access publishing is necessary to ethically reappropriate academic research from commercial publishers who restrict the free circulation of ideas.

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The Australian Centre on China in the World is an initiative of the Commonwealth Government of Australia and The Australian National University.
'Prairie fires can’t consume them completely, a spring breeze blows and again they rise'

_Grass_, Bai Juyi, c.787, cited by Ministry of Civil Affairs Comrade in Charge, 2021
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