

Appreciating a Different Culture Without Filters

By LONG Yun

Yves Mouillet moved to Beijing 15 years ago to pursue a childhood dream of learning about Chinese culture. "It was a journey that altered the course of my life," he told *S&T Daily* recently.

Mouillet now lives and works in China, progressing from a young French student to a prominent French anchor at China Global Television Network (CGTN) and a cross-cultural Internet celebrity. In 2021, the Chinese government presented him with the Friendship Award. As the youngest recipient of the award that year, his outstanding contribution to the cultural exchanges between China and France was highly recognized by his Chinese audience.

Language is an indispensable bridge of communication

When Mouillet was seven years old, a Chinese friend of his mother's spent a few days with his family. He still retains vivid memories of this Chinese lady's elegance, kindness, and oriental temperament. In 2007, Mouillet traveled to China for the first time and quickly fell in love with the country.

In 2009, seeking an adventurous life, he decided to settle down in Beijing and began to study Chinese systematically at the University of International Business and Economics. He has always believed that mastering a language is the first step toward genuinely comprehending a culture. His Chinese language ability, acquired over a decade in China, is close to that of a native speaker. According to Mouillet, the language barrier will impede foreigners from integrating into China's culture.

Mouillet began his career as a news editor at the former CCTV French Channel (now CGTN French Department) in 2011. "Journalism is not just a job for me. It is a passion, a mission,



Mr. Yves Mouillet, (COURTESY PHOTO)

and a responsibility to serve the audience constantly," he said.

In 2012, he was tasked with developing a Chinese language teaching program for non-native speakers. He co-founded and hosted the "Learn Chinese" program with his Chinese colleagues, integrating his Chinese and French cultural backgrounds. Mouillet believed that this program would enable a broader audience of Chinese culture lovers to appreciate the Chinese language and culture's unique charm, while also getting to understand the wave of China's development in the new era.

A witness to China's development
Mouillet has also reported extensively on significant issues, such as China's poverty alleviation campaign, demonstrating the Chinese economy's resilience and the continuous improvement of people's livelihoods. He noted that the context of China's development is essential.

He considers himself fortunate to witness China's rapid development and be a participant in the country's increasing international influence. "China is a powerful country. Nevertheless, China is

not a threat," he emphasized, adding, "To be honest, Beijing is the world's center. It is a city where we can observe history unfolding and development happening. I am honored to be a part of all of these changes."

In terms of technology advancement and people's livelihood improvement, Mouillet said, "I admire Chinese people's capacity to adapt to everything they like. They are open to embracing changes and progress, such as the E-payment system." Apart from the technical progress, he is also impressed by China's ecological achievement.

An objective cross-cultural communicator

After more than a decade of extensive contact with Chinese society, Mouillet gained a better understanding of the differences between Chinese and Western cultures and the critical nature of objective and comprehensive cross-cultural communication. He prefers to position himself as a cultural communicator between East and West, rather than a news anchor.

He highlighted that telling China's story to the rest of the world is just being

honest and transparent. "I will try my best to explain, maybe not all the details, but the central part to help people outside China understand the country."

He is fully aware of the increasing criticism and mounting pressure that come with China's expanding global influence. "One of the most challenging parts for me was accepting Western countries' criticism," he said. However, he gradually accepted that people always have their stereotypes, and in turn, this strongly motivates him to be an objective and active storyteller.

As for the misunderstanding and myths of China fabricated by some Western media, Mouillet believes that they have seriously distorted China's international image, which may even lead to a disastrous miscalculation, and ultimately a lose-lose outcome.

Mouillet proposed that China increase its use of soft cultural products, such as documentaries and cartoons to dispel the Western view of mystery, misinterpretation, and distortion. Westerners could then appreciate and understand China while acknowledging the difficulties behind its development, he said.

China-Japan Unite on Low-carbon Human Habitat

By TANG Zhexiao

Co-organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and China's Southeast University, the China-Japan High-level Experts Symposium on Low-carbon Human Habitat was held online on March 25.

Themed as "East Asian Wisdom and Development Path of Low-Carbon Habitat," the event set up three sub-forums, namely, the design and innovation of Asian human habitat in the process of carbon neutrality, the scientific exploration and technical application of green and smart buildings, and the wisdom and inheritance of East Asian traditional buildings.

Scientists and representatives from universities, enterprises and research institutes made keynote speeches, and held round-table discussions on relevant topics in the field of low-carbon buildings.

Li Meng, vice minister of MOST, administrator of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, said, "The cooperation and exchanges between China and Japan in the field of science and technology have developed

rapidly and expanded in scale over the years, and to develop a low-carbon economy has become the consensus of the two sides."

It is hoped that the experts, scholars and industrial leaders who attended the meeting will enhance mutual understanding and work together to play a positive role in promoting low-carbon building of Asia and even the world, said Li.

Okimura Kazuki, honorary president of JST, said that scientific and technological exchanges are indispensable to both China and Japan, and cooperation between the two sides will become more important to Japan in the future.

Huang Ru, president of Southeast University, said the forward looking discussions on East Asia's low carbon habitat in the cultural base of East Asia will not only inherit the long-standing cultural traditions of the two countries, but also further expand new frontiers in the field of science and technology in order to meet the urgent needs of current development.

The event also released a proposal of stepping into a sustainable low-carbon human habitat from a common cultural base.

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

Dujiangyan: A Marvel of Ancient Hydraulic Engineering

By BI Weizi

Dujiangyan is a renowned ancient flood control and irrigation system in Sichuan province, southwest China. It was first built around 256 B.C. as a large-scale water conservancy project by Li Bing, a hydraulic engineer who served the state of Qin as a governor of Shu County.

This project has been in operation for more than 2,000 years, irrigating more than 30 counties and cities with a total area of nearly 10 million mu (one mu is about 666.7 square meters), giving rise to the folklore that the Chengdu Plain was "a Land of Heaven." It is also the oldest operating grand water conservancy project, featuring diversion instead of damming, in the world.

The Chengdu Plain was once a place of severe floods and droughts in ancient times, which were brought on by Minjiang River, the longest tributary of the Yangtze River, on which the Dujiangyan project was developed. The Minjiang River flows from its source through the steep mountains, and once it reaches the Chengdu Plain, the water slows down abruptly, blocking the river course with so much sediment and rocks that the nearby areas are prone to floods.

In order to solve the problem of floods and droughts, the Dujiangyan project was initiated. The overall plan

of Dujiangyan was to divide the water flow of the Minjiang into two, with one side being redirected into the dry Chengdu Plain to irrigate fields. The main project included three components, the Yuzui, Feishayan and Baopingkou.

Yuzui, a key part of the structure, is an artificial levee that divides the water into an inner and an outer flow. The inner flow is deep and narrow, while the outer flow is relatively shallow and wide to protect local people from being plagued by floods or droughts. This is done by controlling the amount of water that the inner flow carries.

Feishayan is a 200-metre wide opening connecting the inner and outer flows, allowing the natural whirlpool flow of water to drain excess water from the inner to the outer flow to prevent flooding.

Baopingkou, an important part of the system, is a channel cut through the mountains. The channel distributes water to the agricultural fields of the Chengdu Plain, while its narrow entrance, from which it derives its name, acts as a check gate, creating a whirlpool flow that carries excess water over sand and rocks to ensure against flooding.

Dujiangyan encapsulates ancient Chinese wisdom, and is a symbol of harmony achieved between human and nature.



A bird's-eye view of Dujiangyan. (PHOTO: VCG)

Service Info



Qingtuan, sweet green rice balls made from glutinous rice colored by green plant juice, is a traditional snack during the Qingming Festival. (PHOTO: VCG)

Qingming Festival

By BI Weizi

The Qingming Festival, also known as Tomb Sweeping Day, is one of the most ancient festivals of the Chinese people. It is not only a solemn occasion of tomb sweeping and commemorating one's ancestors, but also a joyful festival for people to get close to nature and enjoy the joy of spring. It falls on the first day of the fifth solar term of the Chinese lunar calendar, around April 5.

The festival promotes filial piety and kinship, awakening the common family memory, but also fosters the cohesion and identity of family members and even the nation. In addition, it serves to integrate natural festivals and humanistic customs into one, which is the unity of heaven, earth, and human, fully reflecting the Chinese ancestors' pursuit of the harmonious unity of "heaven, earth, and human" and the idea of following the laws of nature in accordance with heaven and earth.

Sichuan, Chongqing to Mutually Recognize Work Permits for Foreigners

By LI Ruoyan & CHEN Ke

According to the policy interpretation meeting of the Science & Technology Department of Sichuan Province on March 22, the *Implementation Plan for Mutual Recognition of Work Permits for Foreign High-Level Talents in Sichuan and Chongqing* was jointly formulated by the Sichuan provincial and Chongqing Municipal authorities recently.

If a foreigner is identified as a foreign high-level talent (Category A) by the relevant Sichuan or Chongqing department, the individual who is going to transfer to work in another city within the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle, only needs to complete the "Information Form for Mutual Recognition of Work Permits for Foreign High-Level Talents" and is exempt from submitting documents such as proof of work qualifications.

The mutual recognition of foreign high-level talents in Sichuan and

Chongqing is applicable to all foreigners (category A), who apply for re-employment within the scope of Sichuan and Chongqing, primarily including foreigners selected for China's talent introduction plan and meeting internationally recognized professional achievement recognition standards.

Additionally, Sichuan and Chongqing have implemented a unified system of mutual recognition for foreign high-level talent work permits, and the science and technology management departments ought to examine and approve the work permits following the principle of policy optimization. And "foreign high-level talents" can be granted a "Foreigner Work Permit" with a maximum validity of five years.

Furthermore, the pilot mutual recognition of work permits for foreigners (Category B) in Sichuan-Chongqing Gaozhu New Area is on the schedule, so as to further expand the scope of human resources sharing.

BeiDou: Homegrown System, Navigation for the World

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Based on the BDS, the digital logistics system helped reduce the rate of trucks driving without cargo by about five percent, reducing more than 10 million tons of carbon emissions.

In terms of communication, the BDS ground-based augmentation function has also been introduced into smartphones to achieve high-precision positioning at one-meter level.

From regional to global

Applying the principle of that "developed by China, dedicated to the

world, and aimed at being top-class," China is willing to share the benefits of BDS application and development with all other countries.

According to the third China-Arab States BDS Cooperation Forum held in 2021, China and the Arab states will expand their cooperation in using the China-developed BDS. The two sides will also carry out joint BDS/GNSS tests and evaluations, and promote the application of BDS in international search and rescue, among other initiatives.

ComNav Technology Ltd, a key sup-

plier of high-precision modules and receivers for the BDS, has been providing global navigation satellite system technology to Africa for projects in land mapping, continuously operating reference station construction, precision agriculture and more. For now, continuously operating reference stations using ComNav's BeiDou receivers have been built in 11 sub-Saharan African countries, including Kenya and Uganda. Mahama Ouedraogo, the African Union Commission's director of human resources, science and technology, said that Beidou will be-

come a significant tool in Africa's development. He expressed the AU's anticipation to broader collaboration with China in giving access to satellite navigation to more users on the continent to inject new momentum into local economies.

As planned, the BDS project will further enhance the system stability and reliability and conduct new-tech experiments and verifications. A more ubiquitous, integrated and intelligent, comprehensive national positioning, navigation and timing system is scheduled to be established by 2035, according to CSNO.