

# LIFE IN CHINA

## Inclusive Approach Key to Advancing Humanity

By LONG Yun & BI Weizi

As an ancient Chinese proverb goes, "A respected teacher should be adept at imparting professional knowledge and dispelling students' doubts." Professor Alberto Conejo, a world-renowned expert in metallurgical engineering from Mexico, certainly radiates these qualities.

Conejo has been engaged in close academic exchanges and scientific research cooperation with University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) for a long time. In 2018, he was appointed as a full-time professor at the School of Metallurgical and Ecological Engineering of USTB, where he is responsible for undergraduate and graduate education in metallurgy, having trained many exceptional students along the way.

In 2021, Conejo received the Chinese Government Friendship Award, the highest honor bestowed upon foreign experts who have made the most significant contribution to international exchanges.

**Working in China, a dream came true**

"I find it easy to comprehend why I choose to work in China. China is the world's largest steel producer," Conejo told *Science and Technology Daily*, emphasizing that China has the world's largest steel company and that USTB, has the top metallurgy department.

He said it is a great privilege to work at USTB and advance his own research, adding that working and living in China is a dream came true.

Conejo never conceals his admiration for his Chinese co-workers and stu-



Professor Alberto Conejo. (COURTESY PHOTO)

dents, praising their openness to rising challenges and teamwork. Other factors, like the freedom of the academic environment and advanced infrastructure, also serve as decisive factors keeping him in the country.

Despite the differences between Chinese and Mexican cultures, Conejo believes that, "We share the same emotions and feelings under the surface of both cultures. USTB is now my home, my ship on this journey to achieve my dreams," he said, adding that what he cherishes most is his connection with Chinese people.

**Metallurgy, an ever-changing field**

Conejo has developed substantial expertise in the metallurgical engineering field prior to joining USTB. He has

created a distinct perspective on the evolution of this field.

He said that metallurgy is a mature and time-tested science with a long history. He once encountered the confusion generated by the 1980s closure of the metallurgical departments in the U.S., seeing it as a mistake in a field that is constantly changing and evolving.

Conejo admitted that it is challenging to improve the energy efficiency of steel production. However, he is prepared to solve the issue with counterparts around the world. His research discoveries have attracted a great deal of interest from businesses and colleges domestically and internationally.

There are always obstacles in the

way of progress. However, he is determined to pursue environmental sustainability and a shared community for humankind. "USTB researchers have played a vital role in the good shift toward a more environmentally friendly steel sector. If we can eliminate all hurdles to study in the field of metallurgy and work collaboratively with other researchers, we will undoubtedly create a better world," he noted.

**Global efforts lead to advancement**

Conejo emphasized that concerted efforts are required to mitigate the effects of global challenges such as climate change and the current pandemic.

"Even though the chances of face-to-face discussion has [been] reduced, collaboration is still essential for fostering shared development, which is not restricted to specific fields or nations," he said, highlighting that the diversity of perspectives and resources enriches every aspect of the world.

Professionally, Conejo maintains that carbon pollution and climate change are two of the most significant concerns facing the world today. He values China's efforts to minimize carbon emissions in pursuit of sustainable growth. In addition, he hopes that USTB will promote its brand and recruit the most talented international students possible.

He said that despite some people calling him a "utopian," he is confident that international cooperation, instead of isolated endeavors, will ultimately advance human society.

*This article is also contributed by University of Science and Technology Beijing.*

### Letter to the Editor

## Academic Openness Brings Opportunities for Int'l Students

By Mohammad Saiyedul Islam

Since the reform and opening-up, China's higher education has gradually achieved the goal of popularization from small to large and from weak to strong, which has helped China become a veritable educational power around the globe.

After years of hard work, China's higher education has achieved the goal of popularization ahead of schedule and has entered a post-popularization era. With the rapid expansion of the scale of higher education, the quality of higher education has increasingly attracted attention nationally and internationally.

An excellent academic environment and an atmosphere of integrity lay solid foundations for cultivating outstanding scientific and technological talents, stimulating the innovation vitality of scientific and technological personnel. Chinese universities provide an excellent environment for scientific researchers to solve all academic problems.

It is undeniable that China's science and technology development has taken advantage of the rapid economic growth. China makes a considerable contribution to developing the world's high-end scientific instruments and equipment industry used by the research groups.

President Xi Jinping emphasized that it is necessary to create a good academic environment and promote academic ethics and research ethics. Strengthening scientific research integrity is significant to creating a good academic environment, guiding scientific researchers to adhere to academic integrity, improve academic personality, abide by academic norms, and maintain academic dignity.

Promoting the construction of a "community with a shared future for mankind" is an important Chinese idea that contributes to constructing a new global order of fairness and justice. Educational construction is the foundation of social development and a fundamental issue related to the common development of all mankind. Chinese foreign education exchange and cooperation have been continuously strengthened.

In recent years, China and relevant countries along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have developed close educational cooperation and cultural exchanges, such as setting up projects to train high-skilled talent and offering scholarships to students from countries along the BRI.

In Chinese universities, teachers are very friendly, patient, kind, caring, and



Dr. Mohammad Saiyedul Islam. (COURTESY PHOTO)

responsible to the students. China is known for its rich culture, ancient civilization and fantastic tourist sites. It does not come as a surprise that Chinese universities have some of the most beautiful campuses worldwide.

University libraries represent their unique style of learning. The collection of books, literature, information resources, and databases at Chinese universities is vast and varied. Libraries provide a comprehensive open-shelf service and utilize an integrated management paradigm for "collection, borrowing, and reading." Interiors are spacious and well-lit, with WiFi and a multi-functional academic lecture hall. Several professional servers are connected to the library network system for browsing and downloading resources.

China is becoming a fast-rising star in the educational field around the globe and more than 490,000 foreigners are studying in the country. More importantly, Chinese universities offer high-quality education to students at a very affordable tuition fee. The Chinese government, universities, and other entities offer different kinds of scholarships to support international students, which is most important, especially the developing or underdeveloped countries. For this reason, China has become one of the world's largest destination countries for international students to pursue higher education.

In the new era of steady improvement of China's comprehensive national strength and international status, and under the advancement of the great concept of building a "community with a shared future for mankind," China will undoubtedly assume more responsibility as a major country in the field of international educational exchanges and fair distribution of educational resources.

*(The writer is a Doctoral Fellow at Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, and a Bangladeshi journalist based in China.)*

### Traditional Eastern Wisdom

## Chinese Silk Weaving Magic



Empress' Jifu (Semiformal Court Robe), China, Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). (PHOTO: VCG)

By BI Weizi

Silk-based textile is a famous specialty of ancient China where it originated. As far back as the Neolithic Age, China has already invented silk weaving technology.

Silk fabrics produced before 2700 BC were discovered in 1958 at the Qianshanyang site in Wuxing, Zhejiang province. They are the earliest known silk weaving remnants in China, one piece of which is an uncarbonized and slightly yellowish-brown, with a length of 2.4 cm and a width of 1 cm. The silk piece is plain, with warp and weft densities of 52 per centimeter and 48 per centimeter respectively, demonstrating that

Chinese silk reeling and weaving technology was at an advanced level at the time.

Silk production developed in leaps and bounds from the Xia Dynasty (2070-1600 BC) to the end of the Warring States Period (770-476 BC), with its variety being diversified by many different weaving patterns and colored silks. The Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC) witnessed the invention of many silk varieties, such as damask, yarn, and Luo; the Western Zhou period (1046-771 BC) produced brocade with more than two kinds of colorful jacquard weaves; while during the Warring States period, the ornamentation of silk weaving developed from geometric patterns to animal

patterns, with richer colors and more intricate silk weaving techniques. During the Han and Tang dynasties (202 BC-907 AD), Chinese silk fabrics were exported to Central Asia, West Asia, Africa and Europe through the Silk Road, and were generally welcomed by all countries.

On September 30, 2009, Chinese silk weaving techniques were inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Silk weaving is a cultural identity of the Chinese nation, which has made significant contributions to Chinese history for 5,000 years and has also had a profound impact on human civilization through the Silk Road.

### Service Info

## Expats Celebrate International Museum Day

By ZHAO Xiaojing & CHEN Dan

To celebrate International Museum Day 2022, a cultural visit to the Hubei Provincial Museum was organized by the Hubei Provincial Science and Technology Department on May 19. Nearly twenty foreign experts from thirteen countries were invited to participate in the event, including the winners of the "Chime Bell Award" from Hubei.

During the event, the international group visited the exhibition entitled "The Power of Music - The Early Chinese Musical Instruments Culture" and admired the treasures of the museum, including the sword of King Goujian. They also learned about Zeng State, an ancient nation whose historical records have been lost and got to appreciate the Zeng Houyi Chime Bells' time-honored rhyme and style. All foreign experts who attended this activity have lauded China's

long history and profound culture, which has had a far-reaching impact on the world.

According to the organizers, they hoped to help foreign experts gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture, as well as create a favorable living and working environment for them. In recent years, the Hubei Provincial Department of Science and Technology (Hubei Provincial Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs) has actively fostered an environment that respects and supports the innovation and entrepreneurship of foreign talent and has established an attractive global innovation center by implementing an active, efficient and open talent exchange policy. The department will continue to enrich the organizational forms of activities, further optimize the service efficiency, and create a more open and inclusive environment for expats to work and live in Hubei.



Expats appreciate the treasures of Hubei Provincial Museum. (PHOTO: Hubei Provincial Science and Technology Department)

## Milu Deer Survive Against All Odds

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On the other side of the globe, vows for the return of Milu had never ceased. With the unremitting efforts of government, NGOs and the science community, in 1985, China and Britain signed the agreement for the reintroduction of Milu, and the first group of 38 returned to Nanchizi in Beijing, their last habitat in China, after near a century's sojourn. In 1986, another group of 39 deer were reintroduced to the nature reserve in Dafeng, Jiangsu province.

However, the first reintroduction was met with some skepticism. Few people thought the deer would survive, given the small gene pool.

Yet, they defied expectations with a strong survival instinct. As soon as they returned to their native home, their instincts were awakened, said Guo Geng, researcher from Beijing Milu Ecological Research Center.

They used their hooves as tools, kicking open watermelons and flipping fish out of shallow water onto the ground. The deer also have impressive speed and endurance when running and swimming.

**Thriving in the wild**

Although the deer successfully survived and reproduced in reserves,

Chinese scientists did not stop there.

In the 1990s, two national Milu reserves were established in Dafeng, Jiangsu and Shishou, Hubei, to help the Milu survive in the wild.

The deer quickly took to the geographical characteristics of Yangtze basins, where they originated from, surprising people once again.

In 1998, the fence of Shishou reserve was destroyed by floods, and a group of Milu drifted out of the reserve. They survived and formed five communities in the wild.

By the end of 2021, the number of Milu in China had reached more than 10,000, with the wild population surpassing 4,000.

The establishment of national nature reserves has raised awareness on conserving the habitat not only of Milu, but of the ecosystem that supports local communities and rare species.

The rising population of Milu has promoted biodiversity in the reserve, as more than 100 kinds of rare birds have settled there, said Yao Yajun, staff worker from the Dafeng reserve in Jiangsu, adding that in summer he enjoys watching scenes where the birds perch on the backs of Milu eating parasites and getting a free ride across the landscape.