



20th CPC National Congress

Foreign Experts: China's Miracles Lie in CPC's Leadership

By Staff Reporters

On October 16, the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) opened in Beijing, which drew worldwide attention and aroused a warm response at home and abroad. Some foreign experts who have lived in China for many years shared their insight into China's development and gave their views on the global significance of the congress.

Mark Levine, a professor working at Minzu University of China, looked back at the Party's 10th decade with anything but amazement. According to this American scholar, China's unprecedented advances are attributed to the correct leadership of the CPC, and as the song says, "Without the Communist Party, there would be no new China."

"China has clearly led the way in helping to develop a community with a shared future for mankind," Levine said. He also noted that China has made tremendous achievements in science and technology, environmental protection, poverty alleviation and cooperative rela-

tions with other countries through the Belt and Road Initiative.

In the field of education, he said the tremendous growth of university education with the construction of many new campuses has made [Chinese] tertiary education more available for more students.

Rocco Lacorte, an associate Professor at Nankai University, comes from Italy. In his opinion, the 20th National Congress of the CPC should be regarded as one of pivotal historical importance for both national and international reasons. He highlighted that China's realization of a moderately prosperous society under the leadership of the CPC, which alleviated millions of people from poverty and united the whole country, constitutes a milestone and an accomplished miracle.

As a journalist from Bangladesh, Ershad Shikdar noticed that many journalists worldwide have flocked to Beijing to cover this once-in-five-year political event. "The congress has drawn global attention since the decisions to be made in the political event will matter the world, especially developing countries, as China's stake in global politics now is higher than

ever before," he said, adding that any major development in China can positively influence the global economy, poverty alleviation, sustainable development, climate change, and green economy.

Russian expert Olga Pronkina has been in China for 13 years and is now a professor at Gansu University of Political Science and Law. Pronkina said she has witnessed more than a decade of "world-renowned achievements made by China under the leadership of CPC in many areas, including the economy, people's livelihood, and diplomacy."

She applauded the pivotal role of Belt and Road Initiative and other initiatives proposed by China, noting that those ideas have contributed Chinese wisdom to international cooperation and offered its solutions to the world's destabilizing factors, demonstrating its responsibility as a major country. In addition, she especially mentioned that China had set an example for the world in COVID-19 prevention and control, which won broad support and recognition from the international community.

Pronkina believes that the funda-

mental guarantee for China's future development still lies in the leadership of the CPC, and the 20th National Congress of the CPC will have a more far-reaching influence on the world.

Mohammad Saiyedul Islam, a Bangladeshi student at Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, said that under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has ranked as the world's largest manufacturing power and become the largest trading partner of most developing countries. Moreover, he highlighted that this important event is not only of great significance to China but will also have a profound impact on the world.

"The Communist Party of China is the most influential political party in the world. China achieved its first centenary goal, which is a major event for all mankind, and will surely achieve the second centenary goal," he said. He also expected that China will bring new development concepts and patterns, continue to expand high-level opening-up to the outside world and play an important role in promoting world peace and development.

An American Realized His Dream in China

By BI Weizi & LONG Yun



Mr. Brian Linden. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Xilinyuan Hotel (Linden Centre Xizhou) in Xizhou town, Yunnan province, has become something of a tourist attraction in itself and regarded as one of the most photogenic spots in the area. Not too long ago, Brian Linden, owner of the renovated hotel, spent his 60th birthday there and he told *S&T Daily* that, "This is my home."

Linden came to China 18 years ago with his wife and children to pursue his dream of creating a boutique hotel, as well as a cultural exchange platform between China and other countries, something he has largely achieved.

"I hope that through my efforts, more people can appreciate the charm of China," he said.

A young American in China

Linden received a scholarship from the Chinese government and came to study in Beijing in 1984.

He said Chinese respected him and welcomed him with open arms, and the tradition of Chinese hospitality has charmed him since his arrival. From a young man who was born into a poor family and could only afford night school, to someone who has realized his dream in China by integrating people to people exchanges into his cultural protection business model, Linden is proud to say that coming to China was the major turning point in his life.

Committed to telling true Chinese stories

In 1988, after graduation, Linden left China and began a career in international education investments, being involved in projects in over 100 countries and regions. But the idea of coming back to China always lingered in the back of his mind.

To him, China is his mentor, and he has always been committed to telling the true Chinese stories to the outside world as a foreigner who has experienced the reality of a life in the country.

In 2004, Linden and his wife gave

up their jobs in the U.S., sold their properties, and along with their two sons headed back to China, committing everything he had to his Chinese dream. After about two years of research and exploration, the family finally decided to take over Yangjia Dayuan, a Bai ethnic minority building dating back to the Qing Dynasty, in Xizhou, an ethnically diverse town that has served for thousands of years as a crossroad for different cultural traditions, in northwest Yunnan province.

Linden spent all his savings on repairing and upgrading the old building, employing dozens of local workers, and after 18 months, Yangjia Dayuan was restored to its former glory. It was given a new lease of life as the Xilinyuan Hotel, a center in this rural area that would allow people to go beyond the urban experience of China for an intellectual challenge.

"Our guests come here and we have activities almost every day, taking people to [see] different things, such as how the government is addressing the pollution in Erhai Lake. "Xilinyuan is a cultural heritage site that needs protection, which serves not only as a tourist site, but also demonstrates China's cultural traditions to future generations," said Linden.

Hope exists everywhere in China

During Linden's stay in Xizhou over the last 18 years, he has witnessed the rapid changes happening there. In 2020, all 11 poor counties in Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan province were lifted out of poverty. To Linden, it was an amazing project.

"Beyond dramatic economic changes that have occurred because of poverty alleviation, there is more mental change that I feel among people. I would identify it solely with one word, that is optimism. My neighbors, my farming friends, they all have a desire. They believe that their children will have a better life than they did," said Linden, adding that the local and central government have demonstrated full commitment to make sure everyone has equal opportunities, with infrastructure being built in the most remote areas. Villages are connected to the outside world and hope has been brought to every corner in this country.

When talking about his future plans, Linden said he wants to do more to help people understand the rural development in China, and also add more stories to the narrative that has been told about this country, so that the world can understand it in a more comprehensive way.

Sound Policies Drive Green Development

By LONG Yun & SONG Ziyang



Ms. Tara Joensuu. (COURTESY PHOTO)

In 2014, Tara Joensuu, a Finnish/American woman, originally planned to live in Shijiazhuang, Hebei province only for one year. However, her plan changed. With the passing of each year, she found it increasingly easier to extend her stay in the city, Joensuu told *S&T Daily* recently.

Her family, the hospitality of the locals, open society of the city and business opportunities were major factors in her decision to stay.

After coming to China, Joensuu has promoted talent and expertise exchanges between China and Europe. In November 2021, she established her own company named Osa Greentech, primarily focusing on the promotion and implementation of European carbon reduction technologies and expertise in China, particularly in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei region.

She also serves as a member of the Energy Working Group at the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Beijing.

It is not surprising that she chose her current career path to contribute to environment protection. Joensuu said she developed a deep affinity for nature and protecting the environment from very young. However, her inner passion to make a difference in the environmental industry was not ignited until she began living in Shijiazhuang. "I chose this industry because the environment and

climate change ties all of humanity together and I feel like I can make a positive difference in China," she said.

Joensuu's career is thriving now. She believes that being fully aware of one's advantages is one of the elements that contribute to the prosperity of a business.

She added that China has released 1+N policies for achieving carbon neutrality and peaking carbon emissions in October 2021, which created, "the political environment and market opportunities" for shaping a successful business.

"The past year has provided me the perfect political environment to do my work. Luckily, every industry and business in China will need to take their environmental impact into consideration," she said.

In addition, one of the most impressive things she has experienced in China is "how evidently and rapidly policies drive the development of the country and direction of business." Once national policies are released, the local governments and related businesses take swift actions to respond and adapt.

As a professional working in the environmental sector, Joensuu applauded the improvement of air quality in Hebei, a province famous for steel manufacturing in China. She still retains vivid memories of atmospheric pollution when she came to Shijiazhuang at the first time 10 years ago. "I now takes blue skies and white clouds in Shijiazhuang for granted," she said.

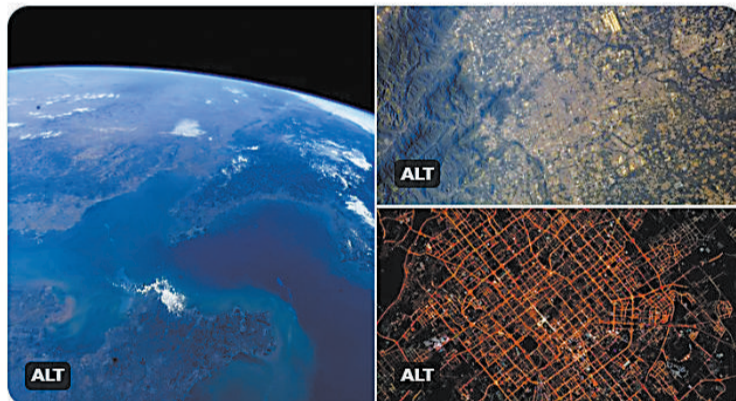
As to the other changes in Hebei, she noticed that the acceptance of international ideas and global expertise has grown drastically in the past seven years. The Hebei province and Shijiazhuang city are stepping up to embrace foreign companies and international professionals, she said.

This young female entrepreneur has become adept at balancing her career and family life. "The only way to properly balance work and family is to be realistic about your time and capabilities and accept that perfection is impossible," she said. She plans to continue the same work in the future.

Italian Astronaut's Passion for Chinese Classics



Samantha Cristoforetti @AstroSamantha · 10月12日
 仰观宇宙之大，俯察品类之盛，所以游目骋怀，足以极视听之娱，信可乐也。
 Looking up, I see the immensity of the cosmos; bowing my head, I look at the multitude of the world.
 The gaze flies, the heart expands, the joy of the senses can reach its peak, & indeed, this is true happiness



Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti drew much attention in China after she quoted some classic poems on social media. "Looking up, I see the immensity of the cosmos; bowing my head, I look at the multitude of the world. The gaze flies, the heart expands, the joy of the senses can reach its peak, and indeed, this is true happiness." These lines belong to a famous work, Preface to the Poems Composed at the Orchid Pavilion, written by the notable Chinese poet Wang Xizhi. The text was accompanied by photos of China taken from the space station. (PHOTO: Screenshot of Twitter)

Falling in Love with Pandas

By James Ayala

Everything in its Right Place is a song by the British rock band Radiohead and it pretty much sums up how I have felt during my past 10 years working in the Chengdu Panda Base. When I first arrived at the Panda Base, it was instantly clear what the Base needed — it was in my job description after all.

For me to survive away from my family for such long periods, I didn't just need a fulfilling job, I really needed another family. As much as I love the work that I do, and find deep personal meaning in it, in the end, it is the warmth, compassion and friendship of my colleagues, that transcends both language and cultural barriers, which has kept me working at the Panda Base. During my first day of work, Hou Rong, director of the research at the time, met with me and gave me carte blanche. She told me that she would support any work that would improve the welfare and management of the pandas, and she meant it. From the beginning, her support, and the support

of my colleagues, have meant the world to me.

For my first few months, I immersed myself in everything concerning pandas. The reason I enjoy training pandas so much is that the whole process is based on trust and forming a bond with each animal.

In order to be an effective trainer, you need to understand the individual personality and needs of each panda. While they all appear to look the same, they actually have strikingly different personalities. As trainers, we need to acknowledge this, working at a pace with which the panda is comfortable, and then nearly anything is possible.

As a recent example, during a routine veterinary checkup, it was discovered one of our pandas had a tumor. Immediately, we began training him to accept ultrasound exams to monitor the progression of the tumor. He was very suspicious at first, but by taking the time to gain his trust, we were able to conduct multiple voluntary ultrasound examinations. Unfortunately, during one of the examinations, we noticed that the



Mr. James Ayala. (COURTESY PHOTO)

tumor had begun growing. However, because of the training program, we were able to detect the problem sufficiently early to treat him successfully. The panda has fully recovered and is now living a healthy, normal life. Knowing that my training work helped save him is one of my career highlights.

Recently, I sent my mother a video of some examples of the pandas' behaviors and she said, "If I had your job, I would just watch the pandas all day and never work." I had to laugh because my

job was literally to watch pandas all day — it was in my job description after all, and again I could not be happier.

My past 10 years at the Chengdu Panda Base has truly been an unforgettable experience. I am eternally indebted to Dr. Zhang Zhihe, the former director, and vice director Hou Rong for giving me this incredibly rare opportunity and for putting their trust in me. I am equally indebted to director Wu Yongshen for his tremendous, continued support and I am excited to look ahead to the great things that the future will bring.

Finally, through thick and thin, good times and bad, including the COVID-19 pandemic that we have all weathered together, the staff have been my family and anchors through the storm. I am truly proud of the work and accomplishments we have achieved as a team to conserve giant pandas and grateful to be a small part of everything at the Chengdu Panda Base.

James Ayala, born in New York, has over 25 years of experience working on wild animals. For the past 10 years, he has been engaged in the research and conservation of giant pandas at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in China.