Expat Sings of the Bright Future Led by the CPC

By Mark Levine

Mark Levine is an American sociologist who came to China in 2005, after nearly three decades working as a volunteer labor/community organizer in the U.S.

After two years in the Huai'an city of Jiangsu Province, Mark Levine moved to Beijing to teach sociology at Minzu University of China.

His experience in China inspired him to begin writing American country/folk songs about life in China. The Future's Very Bright Ahead led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) is the 75th of his "musical stories".

Levine's songs and books -- Stories from My Chinese Journey (2014) and Singing My China Stories to the World (2021), reflect his extensive travel across China, where he has performed in 16 provinces and lectured at more than 60 Chinese universities.

In 2014, he was a recipient of the Chinese Friendship Award, the country's highest award for "foreign experts" who have made outstanding contributions to China's economic and social progress.

In an activity organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mark Levine and the young people from the MOST are singing *The Future's Very Bright ahead Led by the CPC* in English, French, Russian, Japanese and German. (PHOTO: THE MOST)

THE FUTURE'S VERY BRIGHT AHEAD LED BY THE CPC

In July of 1921, the CPC was formed
Leading protracted struggle, the PRC was born
That was in 1949, led by Chairman Mao
Who'd be proud of the CPC, seeing the PRC now
Throughout its century of growth, the Party's always led
Fighting with and for the people, under the flag that's red
Against the people's enemies from within and outside the land
As Mao said on October 1st, Chinese people 'took a stand'
With the founding of the PRC, the struggle did not end
But the people and their leaders understood they could not bend
The progress that we've seen so far is a miracle and yet
We can't rest on our laurels, we must that not forget
When theory and practice unify, so much can be achieved
And progress can be realized that is so hard to believe
We owe this to the teachings of the CPC
Which offers hope for everyone, including you and me
In the year of 2021, the Party's first century
Looking toward the future, what is it we see?
I must admit great confidence, it is no mystery
The future's very bright ahead, led by the CPC
I must admit great confidence, it is no mystery
The future's very bright ahead, led by the CPC
Led by the CPC.

Science without Frontiers

Thoughts on Doing Scientific Research in China

By Paolo Vincenzo Genovese

How to do scientific research in China as a foreigner? This is apparently a difficult question. While we may approach the discussion via specific examples and our personal experiences, I intend to approach the discussion via proposed considerations which are general and universal.

There is no big difference between doing research in China and in other countries. Slight divergence does exist in terms of details such as dynamics, since every country may have their own research process. Nevertheless, there is an undeniable fact which erases every possible opposition: Science is one, and its method is based on exactitude and objective thought. I firmly believe that there is no Chinese science which differs from foreign science. The main objective of science is to find truth based on facts. To some extent, the misunderstanding and misinterpretation we encounter nowadays come from the (wrong) hypothesis that a country, a culture, or a method is better than others. However, neutrino, electromagnetism or gravity work is studied in exactly the same way in China, Italy and every other part of the globe. The key question is to find out how scientific research works through the right approach, without prejudice or a mental barrier.

China, as well as Russia, the U.S. and European countries, is doing better in terms of integrity and diversity, which can be proved by the achievements they have made.

Nonetheless, there is always space for improvement. The scientific method works well (at least for now), but the process of research does need optimization. From the moment the good idea (the "initial spark") emerges, until the publication of the result, the research process is constantly disrupted. The disruptive factors include, but are not limited to, convincing the mentor, a scientific committee, or academia financing the research and the issue of publication of scientific papers, which is the weakest part of the whole process, brought about by absolutely controversial criteria of selection and peer review. These are common "issues" all over the world.

Another issue worth discussion is the macro-trend movement in scientific research. A macro-trend implies that there is a specific direction or a topic which is better, safer or more promising than others. Recently, an increasing number of researchers have been following the macro-trend of scientific research. However, the history of science proved that some trends are safe but wrong. It is positive to see some research investigations going in unusual directions. These innovative topics may be unconventional, but they must be based on scientific method, logic and a rational process of thinking.

But science does not work in this way. More often, the real innovation comes from unusual ideas or theories which are disruptive to the status quo. This is related to creativity. Creativity is apparently insane. It is a bug in the system. It seems absurd for an eccentric person to question the order of the universe as in most cases they are wrong, but in few cases, they can propel science forward by hundreds of years according to Ernest B. Hook.

In China, students and young researchers should raise more questions and doubts, and they should have the "healthy arrogance" to doubt their tutors. Science is for the one who dares to doubt the order of the universe.

China is a safe country in every possible sense, but we should not play it safe in scientific research. In the last 30 years, China has made unprecedented advancement in every aspect of society, including science. What can be further improved, is daring to bet on ideas which seem unusual, but may finally be right.

Taking risk in science is positive. Science has precise rules and logic which have to be respected. Precisely because its method is safe, it is possible to propose innovative ideas, and even jump inside the unknown, which is exactly the purpose of research. Research means to find natural laws that we don't know, or create inventions that now do not exist. Michelangelo Buonarroti, the Italian architect and artist, said, "He who follows will never surpass."

On April 29, the Tianhe core module of China's Tiangong space station was launched into orbit. On June 17, the spacecraft Shenzhou-12 docked with the Tianhe core module. It is a milestone in the history of China and a great achievement that needs to be celebrated. However, something more could be done - cooperation.

Recently, there have been some discussions concerning the possible cooperation at this space station. The Tianhe core module is probably the best opportunity to show the necessity of cooperation in science. It is an opportunity where all the scientists of the world can demonstrate that science does not have nationality, but it is the patrimony of all human beings. Out of respect for the spirit of science, the Tianhe core module is open to other nations of the world. Science should be open to everyone who has a good idea and honest approach to the truth. China should offer its hand to everyone who wants to join the amazing challenge of knowledge in science and continue what was started five hundred years ago in Italy by Galileo. I am totally sure that scientists from every part of the world, regardless of race, religion and citizenship, will be connected by science, and jointly explore the knowledge which is the true patrimony of human beings.

The author is a professor at the School of Architecture Tianjin University in China. The views don't necessarily reflect those of the S&T Daily.

No Vaccination, No Freedom: China's Infectious Diseases Expert

By Staff Reporters

As of June 29, China had administered over 1.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines, reaching yet another milestone toward building herd immunity by the end of 2021, according to data released by the National Health Commission. U.S. broadcaster CNN called the achievement an "astonishing milestone".

Strict Prevention and Control Non Negotiable

On the afternoon of June 5, Zhang Wenhong, director of the National Medical Center for Infectious Diseases and the Department of Infectious Diseases at Huashan Hospital affiliated to Fudan University, made an appearance at the Yunnan Science Forum held in Kunming and delivered a speech titled "Challenges of COVID-19 and Building an Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control System", which was very well received by attendees.

Zhang said: "Equality is what matters and is what we pursue in the battle against COVID-19." Equality formed an important component of his speech.

In the first quarter of 2020, China dispatched medical teams from across the country to support Wuhan and was able to contain the pandemic within a mere two to three months, said Zhang, who added, however, that today there are still cases of the virus in various places around the country which is a cause for concern.

"Foreign counterparts wondered how China could control the outbreak in such a short time and why it is not easing the prevention and control measures. That's because what we have done and are doing is to eliminate severe inequality. Now, China is the only country in the world that has a zero-tolerance policy for COVID-19 cases. Once the COVID-19 sweeps the country, a lot of elderly people will die, that's why we struggle to find a balance between safety and freedom in the pandemic prevention and control," said Zhang.

Zhang added that all the Chinese people united under the strong leadership of the government, and in a sense it is the Chinese culture of unity that helped the country get through this difficult time.

He said the seasonal influenza has a case fatality rate of only 0.1 percent, while the case fatality rate of COVID-19 is 20 times as high. China controlled the pandemic in the shortest time and no other country could have taken on such a big challenge. China's science and technology have made evident contributions in this regard.

"China had an effective public health emergency response during the pandemic, which was basically contained two or three months after Level 1 public health emergency response was launched," said Zhang.

Referring to the country's science and technologies, Zhang stressed the need to have confidence in Chinese vaccines and for people to get vaccinated as soon as possible. "Recently in Guangzhou, we are experiencing a difficult time to control the pandemic. When there are 130 infections, there will be no deaths. But when there are 1300 infections, the fatality rate will be 0.5 percent, and will rise to 5 percent when there are 13,000 infections. That's why we encourage people to get vaccinated," said Zhang.

Currently, preventing imported cases should be our top priority, especially in Yunnan, Zhang suggested. "Nearly 2 billion doses had been administered across the world, but only 1 percent had been administered in least developed countries, especially in those that border Yunnan."

China's shield and Spear Can Smash COVID-19

Zhang said, international data showed that China's vaccine was 78 percent effective. Though it is not 100 percent effective, the 78 percent efficacy would help slow the spread of the pandemic dramatically.

He pointed out that Shanghai had done a good job in dealing with the locally transmitted cases recently thanks to regular nucleic acid tests, using the metaphor of a spear and shield to illustrate these efforts.

On one hand, China's "shield" should be as solid and unbreakable as possible. On the other hand, the "spear" as a symbol of preventive measures, should be used promptly to protect the country from the attack of any COVID-19 variant.

"The pandemic won't end anytime soon and its risks defy our imagination. We have no idea whether new variants are more infectious and threatening. I suggest all of you go and get vaccinated, and this way, we can create our own solid shield and sharp spear. Also, we should call on people to get vaccinated because freedom can't come without vaccines," said Zhang.

Expert Online System Launched

Expert Online System (EO), a brand-new project and a talent-matching platform, was launched on the official website of the Conference on International Exchange of Professionals (CIEP) on March 16, to promote international science and technology cooperation and talent exchanges.

The EO system is designed to help universities, research institutions, enterprises and other organizations in China communicate with international expert organizations for research collaboration, technology transfer and commercialization and job recruitment.

The EO system is provided with Chinese, English and Russian trilingual interfaces, and consists of functional modules such as "My Releases," "My Responses," "My Favorites," "My Comments," "Policies" and "News & Events," and enables both Chinese organizations and international expert organizations to release information and communicate with each other.

Recently, based on the EO system, the organizer of the 19th CIEP held a "Lists Release" event which published many requirements of Chinese entities, and succeeded with a number of cooperation projects.

Currently, the EO system has hundreds of registered users, including international expert organizations, and has released large quantities of information on talent and project requirements.

You are welcome to use the EO system by clicking *http://eo.ciep2001.com:90/#/index.* or scanning the QR code.

The Letter to the Readers

Dear readers,

Welcome to the first issue of English Weekly Edition of Science and Technology Daily (also known as S&T Daily). We aim to provide our readers with sci-tech news, in-depth news analysis and concerned information service. The publication aims to deepen understanding in global sci-tech development and promote communication between China and the world.

As a way to engage with and expand involvement in the sci-tech news community we are building, S&T Daily welcomes your professional input to enrich the content of our newspaper. We want to hear your voices and give the assurance that your knowledge, experiences and opinions do matter to us.

We really appreciate it if you can write a story about starting up business in China, or give your opinion on China's sci-tech development etc. Look forward to receiving your articles, essays or pictures on these topics.

E-mail submissions to: stweekly@stdaily.com.

Thank you,

Editorial office of English Weekly Edition of Science and Technology Daily