

LIFE IN CHINA

Real China through a Canadian Professor's Eyes

By LONG Yun

Professor Abdul Ghani Razaqpur, a world-renowned Canadian scholar in engineering, joined Nankai University as a teacher in 2017.

His China journey actually started 34 years ago. Over the past three decades, he has witnessed tremendous changes in China but something that hasn't changed in his eyes is the kindness and hospitality of Chinese people he has met.

Science and Technology Daily recently spoke to Razaqpur to learn more about his life in China and get an insight into his views on the research and application of the eco-friendly and energy-saving buildings and ecological materials.

Why China?

When asked why he chose the city of Tianjin as the destination in China, Razaqpur joked about the comfortable weather there. "You know, I am a Canadian," he quipped, alluding to the climatic similarities between the two.

He said he was impressed by his Chinese co-workers' attitude, research, teaching, and their way of international interaction with other scholars and students.

The support from the university's administration was another reason that persuaded him to stay. He explained that China provides scientists and engineers excellent opportunities and material support.

"It would not be an exaggeration to say this [China] is the center of gravity of the world's economic, technological development strategy," he said.

New Opportunities from China's development

Some of Razaqpur's friends and colleagues had shared their doubts about his decision to go to China. "What would I be afraid of in China? From the Premier to the ordinary people around me, everyone I have met in China have never said a bad word about me or Canada. They are appreciative of interacting with others," he said.

Given that the false information about China permeates through many Western media, Razaqpur proposed that more people-to-people exchanges and communication can help others to see the real version of China's stories. He said people who have lived in China need to be telling the international community that China is more than just politics, adding that some media and organizations fabricated a negative image of China because they can profit from it.

Razaqpur added that anyone interested in peace and prosperity and those wanting to live a good lifestyle, should be interested in China. Its development will give rise to new opportunities for commerce and other countries will benefit from China's prosperity, he said.

"I'm more interested in the people. Because I think people have the right to live in peace and live a comfortable life in every country. So this is the point of everything. When you see a major country like China, it impacts many people, and prosperity becomes crucial to humanity and love," he said.

To make a difference

As an expert in ecological materials and low carbon and zero energy buildings, he believes that countries should



Professor Abdul Ghani Razaqpur. (COURTESY PHOTO)

be using natural energy, such as solar energy, to reduce the energy consumption of buildings. He is advocating energy-saving buildings by using more clean and less energy-intensive materials, which is something he also imparts to his students to follow when they enter the building industry.

Razaqpur is also concerned with how to use different building materials to store energy. He especially took phase change materials (substances which absorb or release large amounts of so-called "latent" heat) as an example to store solar energy, applauding its role in saving energy when releasing heat.

Razaqpur and his team are experimenting in this field, and seeing promising results. He noted that the industry is facing the challenge of an increasing need for construction companies to take

risks to apply new research findings in order to minimize the carbon footprint.

He is, however, optimistic about the cooperation in the sci-tech field between China and Canada, saying science and technology are mutually beneficial for both countries, who share the same thoughts about the benefits of climate change. Sharing experience and knowledge is the way to go, he said.

Through his efforts, the National Research Council of Canada signed a cooperative agreement with Nankai University, the first in the world that the organization has signed with a university.

Professor Abdul Ghani Razaqpur is a recipient of the Chinese Government Friendship Award for his contributions to international cooperation.

Letter to the Editor

Understanding the Story of the CPC

By Pronkina Olga

I am from Russia and currently working at Gansu University of Political Science and Law. I was awarded the title of "Advanced Individual in the First Dunhuang Cultural Expo" and the Dunhuang Award by the People's Government of Gansu Province in 2016 and 2019 respectively. In 2020, I was recognized as a foreign high-end talent by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

Since coming to China in 2010, I have had a very fulfilling time working, living, growing and learning here, while having witnessed the rapid changes in the city of Lanzhou, the strong rise of Gansu province out of poverty and the rapid development of China's economy and infrastructure. More recently, it was amazing to get a first-hand experience of the remarkable way the Chinese government led an orderly fight against the pandemic as it ravaged the country, and watching the humanitarian act of China providing aid to countries around the world.

I have often heard my Chinese colleagues say that all of this is due to the strong and correct leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Not having paid much attention to the CPC in the previous decade or so, perhaps because of being a foreigner, after experiencing the pandemic in China and the changes that China has made to the world in the post-pandemic era, I have come to understand the efficiency of the CPC.

In May 2021, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC, the Foreign Talent Research Center of the Ministry of Science and Technology invited me to participate in a program with other foreign experts, themed "Telling the Story of the Communist Party of China" in Jiangxi province, a sacred place of the Chinese Revolution. The purpose of the program was to enhance foreign experts' understanding of China's policies and national conditions, as well as the history of China's revolution, and the construction of its ecological civilization.

During the 5-day program, we visited the "Red Holy Land" of the CPC, such as Jinggang Mountain, Ruijin and Ganzhou, to learn more about the history of the CPC. We also visited local science and technology parks, demonstration villages for poverty alleviation, ecological civilization construction areas and beautiful villages. It was inspiring to see the

achievements of China's ecological civilization construction.

Through field trips, historical materials and personal experiences, I expressed my heartfelt admiration for the revolutionary martyrs of the CPC and my recognition of its revolutionary spirit. Therefore, we should cherish the present, focus on the future and work hard to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

We foreign experts also gained a deeper understanding of the achievements of China's poverty eradication efforts and the determination of the CPC to always make the happiness of the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation its original intention and mission. These activities have indeed enhanced my sense of existence and honor as a foreign expert working in China, as well as my sense of urgency to understand the CPC further.

I was born in the Soviet Union in 1986, which was shaped by the great communist revolutionary teacher Lenin and was once a powerful and prosperous "Red Empire," where the great banner of communism once flew. I often wonder why the Communist Party of the Soviet Union failed to lead the Soviet people to a brighter future, and instead ended up with "disintegration." I think the answer to this question can be found in how the CPC led the Chinese people through 100 years of hard work and struggle and gradually embarked on the road to great rejuvenation.

Pronkina Olga is a Russian teacher at Gansu University of Political Science and Law.

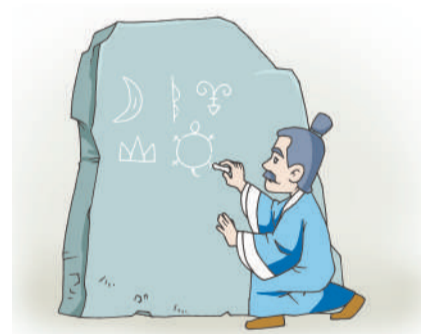


Dr. Pronkina Olga. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

Cang Jie: Inventor of Chinese Characters

By BI Weizi



Cangjie: Inventor of Chinese Characters (PHOTO: VCG)

According to *Han Feizi*, one of the most important philosophical classics in ancient China, Cang Jie was an official historian of the Yellow Emperor and the inventor of Chinese characters, which are invaluable in recording Chinese civilization.

Before inventing characters, ancient people knotted ropes to remember things, known as the "rope knot tying" method. A big knot represented a big thing, and a small knot represented a small thing. Later symbols were carved on bamboo to record information. With the progress of civilization, things were

becoming more and more complicated, and these methods were far from adequate to meet people's needs. This resulted in an urgent demand for characters to be developed.

Cang Jie, under the order of the Yellow Emperor, was determined to create a specific style of writing. It was said he got inspiration from the hoofprints of animals. He was told by a hunter that different hoofprints represented different animals. Cang believed that if he could capture the particularity of every single thing on earth in a single painting, writing would become possible.

From that day on, Cang Jie observed everything very carefully, including the distribution of stars in the sky, the appearance of mountains and rivers on the ground, the traces of birds, animals, insects and fish, and the shapes of grasses and trees. He then drew different symbols and determined the meaning of each symbol. This is how the original characters were invented and Cang Jie is likely to be forever known as the representative figure who summarized and organized writing and contributed to the formation of Chinese characters.

paign to fight against COVID-19 and cooperating with epidemic control measures.

In addition, Zhong said data showed that China is the country with the lowest COVID-19 infection rate—8.9 out of 100,000—and the lowest mortality rate—0.4 out of 100,000—in the world.

He said rumors and false information spread even faster than the virus, leading to an "information pandemic" and exerting a negative influence on society. He called on the Chinese media to be responsible for dispelling any misinformation about COVID-19.

Zhong Nanshan: Media Should Dispel Misinformation about COVID-19

By Staff Reporters

According to Zhong Nanshan, a top medical expert, the country had fully vaccinated 1.08 billion people as of November 24, accounting for 76.8 percent of the total population, which laid a solid foundation for achieving herd immunity by the end of this year.

The Chinese government has been putting people and their lives first and adopted a series of concrete measures, including prevention and control mechanisms at grassroots level. Online media is also playing a positive role in raising people's awareness of effective epidemic control and prevention, Zhong said on November 25, at the opening ceremony

of the China Internet Media Forum in Guangzhou, that China pays attention to human rights, especially the right to life and the right to health in the fight against global public health threats.

As a result of the effective anti-epidemic measures and the positive influence from the media, most Chinese are voluntarily involved in the active cam-

Ancient Water Systems Still Flowing

By Staff Reporters

Three more ancient Chinese irrigation sites have been recognized as World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS).

Granted by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) on November 26, the inclusions of the Li Canal-Gaoyou Irrigation District, the Liao River Irrigation District, and the Sagya Water Storage and Irrigation System have brought the total number of Chinese irrigation projects on the WHIS list to 26.

The Sagya water storage and irrigation system in Shigatse City in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region has an average elevation above 4,000 meters. It is the highest of the sites on the global list.

Liu Xueying, the technical application support team leader of the Sagya Water Storage and Irrigation System, said the Water Storage and Irrigation System in Xizang Autonomous Region is conservatively estimated to have more than 400 reservoirs still in use. It has benefited more than 300,000 people, accounting for about 10 percent of the total population of the Xizang Autonomous Region. Today, the irrigation sys-

tem still uses the ancient engineering structure and management methods. In addition, its technological, historical and cultural values are still driving the economic and social development of Shigatse city and Xizang.

According to Liu, the irrigation system, built at high-altitude and in a very cold region, recorded a remarkable chapter in the history of water conservancy engineering. It adapted measures to local conditions and developed the corresponding management system. Zhu Haidong, an expert in water conservancy, explained that the reservoir is exposed to sunlight, so that the temperature of the pool water collected from the melting ice water is significantly increased, thus making it possible for the highland barley to thrive in the cold environment.

The reservoirs still in use play an important role in developing Shigatse city into the "Highland Barley Area of the World." Highland barley has been the most important crop and the staple food ingredient in Xizang for thousands of years.

Due to the unique natural climatic conditions, irrigation has become essential for developing China's agriculture.

Service Info

Wuyishan National Park

Wuyishan National Park in Fujian province is officially included in the first batch of China's national parks, which was announced on Oct 12. Aerial photo shows a view of Wuyishan National Park, southeast China's Fujian Province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

