



NPC & CPPCC

Dialogue with Foreign Expert

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Editor's Note:

The Two Sessions, the annual gathering of the nation's top legislature and political advisory body of China, have started on March 4 this year. The events provide an excellent opportunity for people to witness democracy and the rule of law at work in China's political system. Several thoughtful foreign experts accepted S&T Daily's interviews to discuss some related topics around the Two Sessions. Their perspectives highlighted a more open and inclusive China as well as the accomplishments China has made in recent years.

Hoping for Environmental Advances



James Elroy Edginton. (COURTESY PHOTO)

James Elroy Edginton is a British English teacher at Hunan University of Arts and Science. He has been living in China for about 13 years and has developed a deep understanding of the country. He has high expectations for this year's Two Sessions.

"I sincerely hope that this year's

Two Sessions will discuss, highlight and promote further advances in areas concerning the environment," said Edginton, adding that he expected to see tougher laws on wasteful over-packaging. It is often seen in China that packages of individually purchased items are wrapped in larger plastic wrapped covers to make items seem more valuable, but this practice should now be banned, he proposed.

The impact that industrial-scale animal farming has had on the environment both in terms of greenhouse gas production and sewage run-off, as well as resource over - consumption should not be ignored, said Edginton.

This year, he would like to see an increased effort made into finding sustainable alternatives in food manufacturing, such as insect protein, vertical farming and lab-grown meat alternatives.

"I know that China has already

made advances into these areas, but I'd like to see this work continued and accelerated as a priority measure," said Edginton.

In terms of the changes that have taken place in the last decade in China, Edginton said he was deeply impressed by the rapid development of Chinese infrastructure projects, which connect Chinese people across the country.

He witnessed the greening of China, such as the ecological restoration of Mu Us Desert in the north of China.

He pointed out that the most impressive thing of all, however, has to be China's never failing sheer ability to just get things done. The willpower of the CPC, coupled with the people of China and world-class leadership, have set a strong foundation for technological, environmentally-friendly, sustainable, and inclusive development, said Edginton.

Sharing at the Core of Development



Misbahul Ferdous. (COURTESY PHOTO)

After receiving his doctor degree in 2017, Misbahul Ferdous joined Beijing Fu-wai Hospital, an eminent institution in the field of cardiovascular disease treatment.

He is proud of his reputation as a truth-teller. "I just convey the truth about China to the rest of the world," he said in the face-to-face interview with S&T Daily.

Ferdous is also the vice president of the Asian Society of Cardiology and has long advocated for exchanges and collaboration between China and other countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. He applauded China's open gesture of sharing medical knowledge and experiences with the world, based on his two-year anti-pandemic experiences, further highlighting that sharing is a symbol of China.

In addition, Ferdous emphasized the use of big data, newly built ICU devices and software in China to combat COVID- 19, boosting the efficiency in containing the spread of the coronavi-

rus. He hoped that the Two Sessions would focus on sharing healthcare and strategies to maintain a safe and normal life unaffected by the COVID-19.

According to Ferdous, the Two Sessions serve as a channel for people all over the world to gain insight into China's democracy and well - protected human rights. "In China, people from many fields all have the opportunity to speak [from] their [own] perspective, which provides actual benefits to tackle real-life problems," he said.

Ferdous recalls how in his days of conducting medical research in China. "Advanced applied technology, supporting freedom of thought, and supervisors' goodwill were the three factors that helped him navigate his often difficult academic road," he said.

Academic Environment Driving Progress



Pavel Neuzil. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Professor Pavel Neuzil, a Czech scientist, has spent decades working in the field of mechanical engineering. He is currently a distinguished professor at Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) at Xi'an, Shaanxi province.

Neuzil has rich experience on co-study in a variety of countries, which serves as an excellent example of the critical role of international cooperation. He holds China's readiness to conduct international cooperation in high regard.

Among the several initiatives China has taken to enhance international collaboration, Neuzil is most impressed with the Belt and Road Initiative. He expects that this historic move would result in more practical advantages for people all over the world.

Neuzil joined the NPU in October 2015. He praised the academic performance of Chinese universities, and attributes the "fast-growing" academic progress to China's stellar academic environment.

At the same time, he was drawn to the working environment diversity. "It is

a pleasure to collaborate with my Chinese colleagues. Furthermore, the hardworking students are passionate about their studies," he said, adding that China's talent cultivation system is highly efficient and provides young people with more opportunities.

During the 2022 New Year holiday, he chose to celebrate the occasion in a unique way by volunteering for the city's epidemic control and prevention efforts with his wife Xu Ying. When asked what motivated him to be a volunteer, he replied that it was the "Chinese spirit of helping one another." Neuzil is particularly impressed by China's prompt response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He specially mentioned the miracle of Huoshenshan, a makeshift hospital established in Wuhan in 10 days to combat COVID-19.



Asad Khalil. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Asad Khalil is a professor of South-west University of Political Science and Law. In 2010, he travelled to China to further his studies at the age of 25. His twelve-year stay in China has shaped him into an objective storyteller about China's development.

Khalil shared his professional perspective on China's newly revised Law on the Progress of Science and Technology based on his legal expertise. From his perspective, the current law revisions and additions reflect China's sci-tech development over the past years and are

considered a response to the new challenges facing the world.

"Many articles in this new law provide detailed descriptions of the modern vision and short- and long-term plans for sci-tech progress. Actually, they are well designed and more appropriate for China's current economic ambitions, considering that China seeks to advance not only the quantity, but also the quality and efficiency of its innovation in the fields of science and technology," said Khalil, further highlighting that the promotion of gender equality and the overall development of women is not only of great significance for China's development, it also has a remarkable influence on the efforts for the advancement of humankind.

Khalil comes from a family of expats whose personal experiences exemplify China's open and inclusive culture. His background makes him pay special attention to education and talent management in China.

He believes that China's efforts to promote education and talent management policies for both Chinese and foreigners provide a solid ground for re-

cruiting, developing, and retaining talent.

"I admire the Chinese openness and flexibility to work with international allies and partners to work together in a win-win situation," he said, adding that he is willing to build bridges of law and get Arab and Chinese nations closer through cooperation on academic levels.

Khalil is also a big fan of the Olympic Games, and regarded the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 as a chance to show and share the host countries' best values and life morals with the world.

In addition, according to Khalil, high-tech elements used at Beijing 2022 have maximized the values of sport and the Olympic spirit, by achieving a green and safe event with 212 various technologies.

He was impressed by many technologies first introduced at Beijing 2022 such as 8K broadcasting, ice-making technology and hydrogen-powered buses.

"With these high technologies, it helped athletes become better, faster, and stronger, and also taught us when a country has a will, there will be a way," said Khalil.

Witness of Gansu's Poverty Eradication



Pronkina Olga. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Since coming to China in 2010, Pronkina Olga, a Russian lecturer at Gansu University of Political Science and Law, has witnessed the strong rise of Gansu province out of poverty and the rapid development of China's economy. Over the years she has seen a range of motions related to poverty alleviation, higher education, international cooperation and exchanges, discussed and passed during China's annual Two Ses-

sions.

As the country's biggest annual political meetings and a window into the central government's priorities and plans, the Two Sessions are always a highly anticipated event, garnering wide attention at home and abroad. Olga, who has established strong ties with China for the past decade, believes that the issues discussed at the sessions concern every single person living in the country.

At the 2020 Two Sessions, Olga could still remember how impressed she was by President Xi Jinping's remarks concerning the goal of achieving poverty alleviation across China by the end of 2020. This reflected China's unwavering determination to secure a comprehensive victory in the battle against poverty, she said.

For such a populous nation, she couldn't believe this goal could really be achieved within such a short time, especially under even tougher times of a worldwide pandemic. However, to her

surprise, she was excited to hear the news that poverty eradication was fully achieved on December 30, 2020. "I live in Gansu, which was an underdeveloped area and had been a focus of poverty alleviation. Now, people's living standards have been improved a lot and I'm happy to witness Gansu's rapid development," said Olga.

When talking about her expectations for this year's Two Sessions, Olga emphasized the significance of foreign language teaching and learning reform in enhancing international cooperation and exchanges. "I suggest contemporary college students master more than one foreign language, since language is a carrier of a culture. Only when the future main workforce learn more about other cultures and become more inclusive, can they better tell Chinese stories to the world," said Olga, adding that she overcame many stiff challenges while learning Chinese in Lanzhou, but eventually her hard work paid off and she is now fluent in the language.

China's Approach Against COVID-19 Works



Zuzana Pavlonova. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Zuzana Pavlonova is a consultant at the Xiamen Foreign Professionals Service Center (XFPSC), helping foreign experts in Xiamen with the challenges of their work and life in China. As a Czech expat who has both studied and worked in China, Pavlonova has her own views on international cooperation in higher

education, China's contribution to the prevention and control of COVID- 19, and the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

Pavlonova first came to China as an exchange student to Shanghai, before later going on to study at Xiamen University. Being a beneficiary of cooperation between Chinese and Czech universities, she felt honored to have such opportunities to experience a different culture and language, which she also thought was crucial to her career development.

"It's very important for any country to send their young people to different places to understand how people in different cultures and countries understand this world," said Pavlonova.

When a COVID-19 wave hit Xiamen last summer, Pavlonova contributed to its prevention and control. In August 2021, she appeared as a presenter in a

video that show how foreigners can get vaccinated in Xiamen, which generated very positive response from other expats. In the Guanren community where she worked as a consultant, Pavlonova also helped to organize local expats as volunteers for nucleic acid testing. She said although China has taken a different approach in prevention and control of the pandemic, it works because she can live her life very normally.

As a person interested in environmental protection, Pavlonova was happy to find out that a natural carbon dioxide refrigeration system was adopted in the venues of Beijing 2022, which was done for the first time in the history of the Winter Olympics. "And this technology has no impact on the environment. So it's helping to decrease the overall carbon footprint of the Games," she said, adding that, "This is something very meaningful, I believe."