

# LIFE IN CHINA

## Seeing China through Unbiased Lens

### My China Story

By LONG Yun & FANG Linlin



Professor Thomas Moran. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Thomas Moran, an American teacher and writer, arrived in China eleven years ago with apprehension. His original perception of China from Western media and magazines was shattered after he encountered the friendliness, generosity and diversity of the Chinese.

However, his understanding of China extends far beyond these observations. Moran told *Science and Technology Daily* recently, "I am a capitalist, a democrat. I believe in the American form of government. However, that is not to say I cannot admire what other cultures do and what China has done, in particular, during the last 30 years."

For over a decade, Moran has been a witness to the development of JNU. From his perspective, JNU "has become far more sophisticated and accomplished." He drew specific attention to the improvement of teaching resources and the quality of education, along with the well-designed instructional system.

In addition, he applauded China's advantage in basic education, adding that students in China gain a body of knowledge through teacher-centered teaching modes through secondary school, which lays a solid foundation for future learning. However, as a foreign teacher, he asserts that Chinese universities should be less teacher-centered and that more student involvement is advised to unleash students' creativity.

His contribution to JNU is not only limited to the campus. As a faculty member, especially as a foreign expert, he believes he owes the university and community efforts beyond the classroom. Therefore, he volunteers for a range of extracurricular activities.

**Opening-up and diversity**  
Moran speaks highly of China's opening-up and reform. Choosing JNU because of the possibilities and improvements "opening-up" created in Guangdong, he was impressed how China embraces diverse languages and cultures by establishing bi-lingual signs and recruiting international teachers, a practice that is uncommon in the United States.

Looking into the future, this American believes by continuing on the road of openness, "China will be the most powerful nation on Earth during your life-time". He described the Greater Bay Area initiative as a "genius" strategy

to transform the region from a global manufacturing factory to a financial and innovation center.

Moran cautions that China should never cease opening its minds and institutions to the rest of the world, as the past 30 years has proven that collecting good ideas from everywhere can only make China stronger.

**Respecting differences**  
The combination of Moran's distinctive identity as an expat, and his keen observations, led him to recognize that the fundamental features which animate and distinguish Chinese culture are only different from those of the West, not a matter of being better or worse. He loves the difference.

He values mutual respect in cultural differences. As an international cultural bridge, Moran encourages his Western friends to visit China and, when they do, to respect the culture that China has created over millennia. "I tell foreigners who come to China, to please spend enough time to learn about it, respect it, and you will come to love it," he said.

He also offered some helpful suggestions to us for effective international communication between China and the rest of the world. According to Moran, most Westerners, such as himself, admire the indirectness and subtlety which historically characterizes communication in the Chinese language. He advises when communicating with international audiences, writers or reporters in China should avoid formalism and repetitive writing styles.

*This article is also contributed by Jinan University.*

## Sino-Russian Sci-tech Cooperation Magnified

By LI Liyun

In a recent speech, Xu Jie, deputy director-general of department of international cooperation at Ministry of Science and Technology, noted that despite the impact of the pandemic, China and Russia have made significant progress in enhancing bilateral innovation cooperation mechanisms. This has included implementing key R&D projects, scholar exchange, and hosting exhibitions and events. China and Russia have engaged in over a thousand productive sci-tech innovation exchanges in recent years.

Those words were delivered at the seventh China-Russia Roundtable Meeting on High-Tech Application Development and Cooperation.

According to Sergey Terashkevich, deputy director of department of international cooperation at Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russian Federation, after years of development, this roundtable meeting has become an essential platform for the science and technology communities of the two countries to explore cooperative models and strengthen their partnership. He believes that effective transfer and application of scientific achievements could better promote economic growth, serve the overall objectives of bilateral collaboration, and benefit the people of both countries.

Vladimir Oshchepkov, consul general of the Russian Federation in Harbin, applauded the role of Sino-Russian cooperation in high-tech fields, adding that it is an important direction for practical cooperation, which serves the long-term strategic interests of the two countries.

**Harbin's bridging role**  
Harbin is becoming one of China's cities conducting active sci-tech cooperation with Russia, according to Xu.

Shi Zhaohui, deputy director of Heilongjiang provincial Department of Science and Technology, said Heilongjiang province is becoming an important window of China's cooperation with Russia and a hub of cooperation in Northeast Asia, relying on its unique historical, geographical and regional advantages in cooperation with Russia. He also expects that Harbin will make full use of its radiating and driving role as a center of cooperation and support its construction into a center of sci-tech cooperation between China and Russia in the future.

According to Tan Lewei, vice mayor of Harbin, the city will work with cities in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta to form a North-South interactive and collaborative innovation mechanism and jointly promote the development of sci-tech innovation cooperation between China and Russia.

**Enhancing Sino-Russian regional innovation links**

Luo Benjin, the chief scientist from Yangtze River Delta National Technology Innovation Center, underscored the necessity to build North-South innovation industry chain ecology in China, noting that strengthening North-South cooperation in innovation and industrial ecology will help China and Russia effectively connect and utilize resources.

Meanwhile, Su Jing, president of Harbin International Science and Technology Cooperation and Exchange Association, suggested that Chinese and Russian innovation entities should jointly launch an innovation economy research institute to drive China-Russia regional innovation cooperation.

**Speeding up commercialization of sci-tech achievements**

Sun Chang, general manager of China Technology Exchange, hoped that Harbin and China Technology Exchange would integrate resources of both sides to actively participate in the establishment of a China-Russia cooperation mechanism. This would aid the transformation of sci-tech achievements and jointly speed up the marketization and commercialization of the transformation process between the two countries.

The meeting also focused on setting up platforms to release cooperation demands and promote key project collaboration.

The national Technology Innovation Center of the Yangtze River Delta and three other organizations released specific project cooperation demands to meet the actual needs of enterprises and promote the transfer and transformation of sci-tech achievements. Selected projects will be given priority to be included in the support plan of local science and technology bureaus.

Since 2015, this event has become an essential landmark of bilateral sci-tech cooperation. Over the years, more than 300 sci-tech achievements from China and Russia have been promoted.

### Service Info

## Tianjin in My Eyes



Tianjin Municipal Science and Technology Bureau organized a themed tour of Haihe River on July 15. Nearly 20 foreign experts walked along the Haihe River and appreciated the beautiful scenery of Tianjin city.

During the activity, a salon was held to teach skills for expats in photog-

raphy. As part of the 4th "Tianjin in My Eyes" photo contest, the themed activity aims to invite expats in Tianjin to better understand and fully appreciate this city so as to further integrate into the city.

(PHOTO: Tianjin Municipal Science and Technology Bureau)

## Fact Check of Daily Rumors

### Myth Busters

By BI Weizi

**Rumor:** Drinking more soda is good for your body and can regulate your body's acid-base balance.

**Truth:** None of the claims that the body's acid-base balance can be regulated by diet is scientific. The internal environment of a healthy human body is automatically maintained in the right pH range to provide a stable environment for people's physiological activities.

For example, the blood's pH is always constant at 7.35-7.45 and will not change because of drinking soda. Drastic changes in blood pH, on the other hand, are often due to major diseases, such as cancer.

Therefore, the argument that drinking soda changes the acid-base constitution is not true. Instead of obsessing about eating acid or alkaline food, people should pay atten-

tion to food varieties and make your nutritional intake more balanced and comprehensive.

**Rumor:** People with urathritis can't eat tofu, meat, eggs, or they could have a relapse.

**Truth:** This is a common misconception. Most purines are already lost during the preparation of soy products, so their consumption does not increase the chance of a gout attack.

Considering that blood uric acid may rise briefly after a meal, it is generally recommended to control the intake of soy products, and to follow medical advice during an acute phase of gout.

In contrast, meat and eggs do not have a significant effect on blood uric acid compared to high purine foods such as animal offal and crustacean seafood. These foods are rich in protein, fat-soluble vitamins and other essential nutrients, and long-term deficiencies of these nutrients can lead to nutritional imbalances, which in turn can reduce the ability to metabolize purines, leading to an increase in blood uric acid.

### Photo News



## The Twelfth Solar Term: Dashu

According to the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, a year consists of 24 solar terms. Dashu is the 12th and also the last solar term of summer, which falls on July 23 this year. Its arrival symbolizes that most parts of China enter the hottest season of the year. In classical Chinese, the word "Shu" is compared to "boiling", expressing the image of the earth being like a pot of boiling water during this period.

The temperature during Dashu is often scorching hot because the heat absorbed by the earth during the day is higher than the heat radiated at night,

and the heat accumulated over the days and months reaches its peak during this season, hence the ancient Chinese named it Dashu (Big boiling) in comparison to Xiaoshu (Small boiling).

Besides heat, another key word used to define Dashu is humidity, which is mainly controlled by monsoons. During Dashu, most parts of China may face frequent thunderstorms and showers. The accumulation of rain can lead to severe flooding and landslides, so great care is taken to monitor and prepare for these natural disasters during this season.

### Traditional Eastern Wisdom

## Eastern Wisdom Fires Iron Casting

By BI Weizi

Archaeological discoveries show that Chinese cast iron technology dates back to Western Zhou Dynasty (1045 - 771 BC) when iron and steel objects were used in many areas, about two millennia before the earliest similar evidence from Europe. China's epoch-making contributions to the development of iron casting and iron smelting have been seen throughout history.

China's first advancement was an-

nealing technology, which was introduced during the Warring States period (475-221BC). This method is primarily intended to soften castings in order to improve their machinability by breaking down pearlite and minimizing or removing large amounts of eutectic carbides, helping Chinese people develop the technological path of casting to manufacture agricultural tools, in contrast to the iron firing techniques of other civilizations.

Another significant innovation was iron smelting, which is the main method

of turning cast iron into steel, or cooked iron, in ancient China and was invented around the Western Han Dynasty (202BC--8AD). Smelting means heating pig iron into semi-liquid and liquid form to finally obtain steel. Until the middle of the eighth century, this method was invented in England, which played a great role in its industrial revolution.

The evidence shows ancient Chinese iron casting and smelting technology was very advanced and ahead of the world in the early days of development.



Five teeth rake dates back to the Warring States Period (770-476BC). (PHOTO: VCG)