

# Openness, Cooperation Promote Innovation

By GONG Ming and BI Weizi

Craig D. Roberts, American/Australian, is one of the leading researchers in modern nuclear and particle theory and joined the faculty of the School of Physics at Nanjing University in 2019. He was honored by the Chinese Ministry of Education as an International Distinguished Professor in 2015.

### A real picture of China

Roberts began working at Nanjing University full-time in 2019, but his connection to China dates back to 2006, when he was invited to Beijing for an international conference. This visit allowed him to see the real China and establish connections with the Chinese scientific community. When asked about his first impression of China, he said frankly, "I was not very enthusiastic at first, but after coming here, I am glad that I made the right decision to visit China more often in the future." After observing China with his own eyes, he found that, "Chinese people are very energetic, interested in scientific research, education, etc., and extremely curious about discovering new branches of research." With more trips to China in the following years, a completely different picture of the country was formed in his mind.

### Enjoying life in Nanjing

Prior to joining Nanjing University, Roberts was director of the theory group in the Physics Division at a famous U.S. laboratory. Then he quit his job and tried to explore more opportu-



Professor Craig D. Roberts. (COURTESY PHOTO)

nities globally. Approached by a number of research institutions and colleges in the U.S. and Europe, he finally decided to accept the offer from Nanjing University and brought his wife and children with him, because he believed in China's potential for being a hub of high-end talent going forward.

"Some Westerners hold deep-rooted prejudices against China, and I think they need to see China with their own eyes. The trip to China really gave my family a sense that Nanjing is a pleasant city to live in," said Roberts, adding that his wife is now teaching German and his son is attending an international school. Both are slowly integrating into the local

culture and life. "Nanjing is culturally diverse and very livable, and despite its very dense population, we don't feel the pressure of it being a megalopolis. There are green parks and cafes to be found everywhere, the pace of life is comfortable, the public transportation system is well developed, and life in Nanjing gives unimaginable relaxation," he said.

In terms of his work, Roberts shows the sense of great wisdom and generosity of a researcher. He tries to explain what nuclear particle physics is in terms that ordinary people can understand. The question this science seeks to address, he says, is why we exist in this world. He reiterated the pivotal role of

nuclear particle physics within basic science. "Basic science is the trunk of the tree, and only when you raise the trunk can you have branches. Our present life is the result of unremitting efforts of the previous scientists. Basic science is the foundation of scientific invention," he explained.

### Science needs diversity

Roberts has also been actively engaged in bringing in more foreign talent, including establishing a postdoctoral program that has been temporarily put on hold due to the pandemic. "In the future, we will hold many international conferences, invite scientists from all over the world to come to China, interact with Chinese students, and make Nanjing a top research city in nuclear physics," he said.

China's promotion of open innovation and increased international cooperation in scientific research is something that Roberts shares. "The world is one, and basic science is open. Putting barriers between scientific research does not benefit either party, and innovation will never be produced behind closed doors," he said.

He is confident that China has the ability to become a leading country in areas such as high technology, education and basic science, and can grow even more by competing with and learning from other countries.

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## Letter to the Editor

# Feeling at Home in China

By Ershad Shikdar

Since the adoption of the opening up and reform policy, a growing number of foreigners have been arriving in China from around the world. Some of them are looking for suitable jobs in their professional fields while others are starting up their ventures in China. An array of global conglomerates are also extending their franchises into the vast Chinese market.

As a result, the number of expatriates has reached 1.4 million, including 846,000 foreign nationals on the Chinese mainland in 2020. They mainly work for corporate establishments with domestic business status, which can be Wholly Foreign-Owned Enterprises (WFOE), Joint Ventures (JV), and businesses that operate their Representative Office (RO) in China.

Many work for different government organizations as foreign experts. Foreign teachers are also a popular option, teaching a wide range of languages and subjects in universities of China.

In my experience, I have always heard foreigners saying that they feel at home in China. Some special reasons contribute to forming such a feeling in their minds. The safety and security expats enjoy here in China are two of the most important reasons.

There is no denying that China is an extremely safe place to be in general, regardless of whether you are a local or a foreigner, visiting or living in any part of the country. While the world is struggling to contain terrorism, China has successfully stood out from the rest and no terrorist attack is reported to have taken place in its territory in recent years.

Foreigners can live in most of China's major cities for far less than \$1,000 per month while still enjoying a comfortable lifestyle. Due to the ongoing pandemic and geopolitical turmoil, every country has already seen recent price hikes, but it has yet to be felt in the commodity markets in China to any great extent. Foreigners are also entitled to enjoy tax benefits, employee benefits, and oth-

er compensation benefits as laid down under Chinese labor laws. They are entitled to have social insurance as the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security requires foreign employees working in China to participate in its social insurance scheme, as detailed in the Interim Measures for the Participation in Social Insurance of Foreigners Employed in China, 2011.

According to Chinese labor law, any foreigner employed by a legally registered entity in China, or any foreigner dispatched to a registered branch or representative office of a foreign company – must participate in basic pension insurance for employees, basic medical insurance for employees, work injury insurance, unemployment insurance, and maternity insurance. As a result, foreigners get gratuity benefits from their employers after permanently leaving their jobs.

China has signed international social security agreements with some countries including Germany, Korea, Denmark, Canada, Finland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Spain, Luxembourg, Japan, and Serbia. All existing agreements define the groups of employees eligible for exemption and lay out the categories of social insurance for which employees are exempt from paying.

In turn, Chinese employees sent to the participating countries will also be exempt from making the relevant social insurance contributions there. However, social insurance exemptions are only available to a defined group of labor categories, and not to all foreign employees.

Last but not least, the friendly behavior of the general Chinese people and their positive attitude towards foreigners are always motivating factors for expats to feel at home in China. Hence, China has long been on the priority list of many professionals and businesses who want to move to a foreign country to earn competitively more money than they usually do at home.

*Ershad Shikdar is a journalist working for a Bangladeshi media outlet in China.*

## Service Info

# Tips on Heatstroke Prevention

By Staff Reporters

On July 23, the National Meteorological Center continued to issue an alert for high temperatures as intense heat waves linger in many regions of the country. Temperatures in parts of China may surpass 40 degrees Celsius for some days to come, the center said. Many regions in China are hit by extreme heat again, after this year's 12th solar term, Dashu, falls. The solar term in the Chinese calendar indicates the hottest period of the year coming.

This summer, there have been a number of confirmed cases of heat stroke in many countries. China's National Health Commission (NHC) recently issued tips on heatstroke prevention.

According to NHC, heatstroke is the most serious of all heat-caused illnesses. It occurs when the body is exposed to a high temperature and humidity environment. Thus, the body cannot control its temperature due to an imbalance of bodily function. NHC also warned that the death rate from heatstroke is extremely high.

An obvious sign is feeling extremely hot and unwell. Moreover, patients

with heatstroke often display symptoms of lethargy, seizures, coma, hallucinations, inattention, memory loss, and in some cases lingering cognitive and language impairment.

Headache, nausea, shortness of breath, racing heart rate and muscle spasms are also often associated with heatstroke.

Since high temperature is the main reason for heatstroke, health experts advise people to avoid direct exposure to high temperature (high humidity) and unventilated environments to prevent the illness. In addition, having adequate rest and drinking enough water to avoid dehydration is also important.

Once a person has the symptoms of heatstroke, stopping the body temperature from rising is paramount. The patient needs to be removed immediately from the source of heat and placed in a cool place where the skin temperature can be lowered. Other measures can also be taken to lower the temperature, such as spraying cold water over the patient's body. In addition, packing cool and wet towels or ice on the forehead and other body parts is effective in helping to stem the fever.

# Hunan Expats Experience Innovative Environment

By Staff Reporters

In recent years, Hunan province has placed a significant emphasis on overseas talent exchange and business. To further optimize cross-border talent exchange networks and strengthen international cooperation in the pursuit of attracting more talent, a range of new steps, including the formulation of more talent recruiting strategies and the establishment of service platforms, have been adopted in light of past accomplishments.

Since 2020, Hunan provincial Science and Technology Department has taken the lead in establishing a series of brand activities related to international talent in China. This department has organized sci-tech exchange seminars between Chinese and foreign experts, cultural activities themed with Chinese culture for expats and job fairs courtesy of multinational enterprises. These brand activities play a crucial role in fostering a healthy innovation ecosystem, serving foreign experts, introducing international talent, promoting the sharing of social innovation and entrepreneurship resources, and improving

Hunan province's internationalization level.

A themed tour for expats was organized by Hunan provincial Science and Technology Department on July 14th. This activity's first destination was the Xiangtan High-tech Zone. In this zone, the first German industrial park to promote international collaboration in Hunan province was established in 2003. In recent years, it has recruited more than 100 foreign experts from the United States, Germany, and other countries, as well as established vital platforms such as the Hunan Shaofeng Institute of Applied Mathematics and other science and technology research organizations. The first technology and innovation support center approved by the World Intellectual Property Organization was also founded in this High-tech Zone.

In addition, the High-tech Zone has set up a professional team to assist foreign experts in living and working in China, providing them with medical treatment and other services. At the same time, relevant policies covering foreigners' innovation, entrepreneurship and lifestyle have been released.

# Terracotta Warriors: Eighth Wonder of the World

## Traditional Eastern Wisdom

By BI Weizi



Terracotta Warriors, excavated in 1973 in Xi'an, Shaanxi province. (PHOTO: VCG)

Chinese pottery originated in the Neolithic period. During the Shang and Zhou Dynasties (1600-256BC), the development of hard-pottery craftsmanship flourished. By the Qin and Han Dynasties (221BC-220AD), Chinese were able to produce pottery objects with exquisite craftsmanship and vivid details, the most famous and representative of which is the Terracotta Warriors, consisting of thousands of life-sized ceramic warriors and horses alongside bronze chariots and weapons excavated in 1973 in Xi'an, Shaanxi province.

The production of the Terracotta Warriors not only pursues overall beau-

ty, but also pays great attention to the details of portrayal. The overall conception fully reflects traditional Chinese aesthetic requirements. In terms of technique, the potters made extensive use of circular engraving, relief sculpture and line engraving, which were highly creative then and laid a solid foundation for Chinese ceramics prosperity.

The heads of the warriors are the most complicated part of the works, as well as the most remarkable aspect. Archaeological discoveries showed that the warriors were made up of separate pieces that were then pasted together, with several different molds being used for the faces. Then craftsmen added details

to make them different from each other. Finally, these warriors were glazed and painted with different colors, such as red, green, blue, purple, white and black, to achieve a surprisingly realistic effect.

These pigments are made of mineral raw materials. Red is made of cinnabar and lead, green is malachite, blue is blue copper ore and so on. The freshly excavated terracotta figurines still retained their vivid colors, but after excavation, the colors quickly faded due to oxidation. Though some specific production details are still unclear, in terms of pottery making, China was already a world leader at that time.

## Multi-Media

# Tech for Better Life in China -EP. 1



Official data shows that China has provided two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations for the global COVID response. Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, said almost 228 million doses of Chinese COVID-19 vaccines have reached 50 countries, becoming particularly crucial in 2021 when global vaccine supply was particularly tight. China can play a major role, continuously contribute to financing, technical assistance, and helping with vaccine supply, said Berkley. For further information, please scan QR code above.



Bordered by Kazakhstan, Russia, and Mongolia, the Kanas scenic area in Altay, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region is a national geological and forest park, a nature reserve, and a natural heritage site. (PHOTO: XINHUA)