

# The Art of Translation: Getting Message Across

## Dialogue

By LONG Yun & BI Weizi

We first met Spanish language expert Francisco Javier Ayllón Piquero at a forum that was themed on understanding China better. His speech revealed a world where languages bridge different cultures, bring vivid perspectives and foster understanding.

"Language is like a vast ocean," Ayllón told *Science and Technology Daily* adding that it is filled with treasures to be discovered.

In 2001, he moved to China, a decision that would forever change his life's path. Initially, he taught Spanish at a foreign language school in Shandong province. His talent for teaching language quickly attracted attention and led him to work at China Central Television (CCTV) as a Spanish translator and editor. It wasn't long before another opportunity arose and he was introduced to the Central Compilation and Translation Bureau (now the Institute of Party History and Literature of the CPC Central Committee), where he has been a Spanish editing specialist for nearly two decades.

### The nuances of language

For over 20 years, Ayllón has enhanced his skills in translation, particularly in the field of political documents. "The most rewarding part of this work is that it is never static. I get to keep learning Spanish [words for difficult political jargon] every day even though it's my native language," he said. Moreover, "Age is not a limiting factor in my field, and I want to continue as long as possible. The beauty of language work transcends time."

"My work is not just about converting one language to another," Ayllón said. According to the Spanish expert, translating China's political documents isn't a simple linguistic task and it involves understanding the cultural, historical, and political nuances behind the words.



Francisco Javier Ayllón Piquero. (COURTESY PHOTO)

One of Ayllón's unforgettable moments in his career came during the translation of a critical document — *The Report to the 20th CPC National Congress*. The text included six major principles, known as the "six commitments," which serve as a cornerstone of China's development path. Translating phrases like "uphold fundamental principles and break new ground" required collaboration with Chinese colleagues and hours of discussions.

Ayllón described the process as both challenging and rewarding. "We debated for a long time about how to translate the term fundamental principles in the context of this report. In Chinese, the phrase 'fundamental principles' carries a range of meanings, from 'correct direction' to 'moral principles.' After consulting with the drafting team, we decided that this phrase in this context referred to the core values that must be upheld."

His work doesn't end with just choosing the right words and putting them on paper. "Chinese political

language is subtle and deeply rooted in its historical and cultural context," Ayllón explained. Many times, a single Chinese character can carry multi-layered meanings. And some often don't have direct equivalents in other languages, which makes literal translation insufficient.

"This makes collaboration between Chinese and foreign translators vital," he said, adding that they need to ensure that the meaning, context, and intention behind these terms are accurately conveyed to a global audience without losing their essence.

### Understanding China better

Ayllón believes his role is not just about accuracy but about promoting mutual understanding. For years, Ayllón has witnessed China's evolving relationship with the world. Foreign experts like him play a pivotal role in helping the international community understand China's political messages, policies, and values.

One experience that left a deep impression on Ayllón was his visit to Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. He recalled being struck by the unexpected

similarities between Kashi, a historic city in Xinjiang, and Guangdong, a province in the south. "Despite the vast distance between the two regions, I saw many successful commercial and industrial projects from Guangdong thriving in Kashi," he said.

This visit also gave Ayllón insight into China's unique concept of "paired assistance," where more developed regions provide financial, technological, and human resource support to less developed areas, like Xinjiang. "This initiative deepened my understanding of China's approach to modernization," Ayllón said. "It's about ensuring prosperity for all people, which is a key part of Chinese modernization."

His travels and studies in China have deepened his respect for the country's rich history and diverse culture. "From the grasslands in the north to the mountains and rivers in the south, China is a country of vast natural beauty. But it's the warmth and kindness of the people I've met that have made the biggest impact on me," he said.

### A decision he never regrets

Looking back at his time in China, Ayllón highlighted his friendships with his Chinese colleagues. "We don't just work together; we are like family," he said.

He said that Shen Baolou, a highly respected Spanish translator, left a lasting mark on him: "Shen passed away two years ago, but I still think of him often. He was meticulous, dedicated, and always ready to debate the smallest nuances in a translation. He was also humble despite his impressive accomplishments. I learned so much from him, and his passion for translation inspires me."

For years, Ayllón has been drawn to the elderberry tree in the courtyard of his workplace. "This tree has been here since the day I first arrived in 2004," he recalled, adding that it's grown and flourished, just like his life in China. "Seeing it reminds me that, although time flies, some things, like the relationships we build and the work we love, endure forever."

## Overseas Echoes

# Brazil-China Partnership Momentum for Energy Transition

By Rodrigo Mendes

In 2024, with Brazil and China celebrating 50 years of their diplomatic relations, one area of cooperation in science and technology is gaining momentum: energy transition to a low carbon economy.

Both countries have a strong commitment to decarbonizing their energy grid, as well as their share of challenges and technology solutions to reduce their carbon footprint. Beyond that, both enjoy tech solutions to decarbonize their economies, consensus among leaders and a strong commitment among the business community and a good connection between academies.

China and Brazil are championing a low-carbon economy. In Brazil, 89.2 percent of the electricity generated is renewable. It also has a successful four-decade-long program on bio-fuels. For the future, the country is finalizing national rules for hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuel that will foster new avenues for international investment and cooperation on science and technology.

China, for its part, contributed more than 50 percent of the global increase in green energy generation in 2023, mainly through wind and photovoltaic plants. In 10 years, the country increased the share of renewables in electricity generation from 24 percent to 39 percent.

During Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's state visit to China in 2023, both countries agreed to broaden, deepen and diversify their cooperation in areas such as transition to a sustainable and low carbon global economy; smart cities; green infrastructure and the development of green industries.

They also agreed to enhance their collaboration on renewable energies; electric mobility; innovation, research, and development of green technologies. Green finance and investment were on the cooperation agenda as well.

China and Brazil's industries are already collaborating in this area to implement the consensus to work together. China's State Grid, State Power Investment Corporation and China



Rodrigo Mendes. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Three Gorges Corporation have important investments in Brazil and some of them are already preparing joint R&D projects on hydrogen storage and transportation.

Chinese wind turbine manufacturer Goldwind opened its first factory outside China in the state of Bahia in Brazil in September. Brazilian companies are also engaging in joint R&D with China, such as mining company Vale working in Chengdu in southwest China to identify startups with green solutions for the mining industry. Pulp manufacturer Suzano's new R&D center in Shanghai opened last year, and its R&D center with Chinese paper maker Libang Paper opened in Xiaogan city in Hubei province in August.

Our academies also have strong bonds. Since 2010, both countries have enjoyed the benefits arising from the Tsinghua-UFRJ Center for Climate Change and Energy Technology Innovation. The center has already developed technologies for biodiesel production and serves as a platform for other areas of cooperation.

Following President Lula's visit to China last year, the China-Brazil cooperation on energy transition is on the cusp of a momentous time.

Rodrigo Mendes Araujo is a counselor and head of the energy and IP sector at the Brazilian Embassy in China.

# Sustainable Prosperity Requires Consensual Cooperation

By CHEN Chunyou

"It is more urgent than ever to deal with the instability of the climate conditions," said Steven Chu, an American professor at Stanford University. Chu was speaking by video at a plenary session of the 2024 World New Energy Vehicle Congress (WNEVC) held in Haikou, Hainan, the island province in south China, from September 27 to 29.

In recent years, the impact of climate change has intensified, leading to increased extreme weather events. This has made achieving carbon neutrality more pressing than ever.

The 2024 WNEVC echoed the 2019 session, which had proposed that the proportion of new energy vehicles (NEVs) in the world reach 50 percent by 2035.

The world NEV market has witnessed a breakthrough in achieving this goal, with many countries promoting NEVs. According to Hou Fushen, secretary-general of the China Society of Automotive Engineers, in the first half of 2024, global NEV sales reached a new height of more than seven million units. It signified a year-on-year increase of 23.1 percent, and the market penetration rate exceeded 17 percent.

"China plays a crucial role in a successful transformation towards electromobility and digitalization," said Hildgard Mueller, president of the German Association of the Automotive Industry.

To meet the goal, China has put its money where its mouth is. The government has released several policies to boost the domestic development of the NEV sector, and Chinese NEV enterprises have expanded the overseas market.

### Risk of trade conflicts

But despite the progress, in 2024,

the global auto industry has seen a rise in deglobalization sentiment. "An example is the EU's anti-subsidy investigation into EVs imported from China," Mueller highlighted.

In addition, some countries and regions are restricting the import of NEVs from other countries by imposing higher tariffs and setting technology standards. "It is a fundamental truth that any protectionist measure restricts free trade. It carries the risk of trade conflicts," Mueller said.

"The uncertainty and risks brought by this kind of trade protectionism measures are increasing," said Gan Jiayue, CEO of Geely Auto Group. He said the European Union's additional tariffs on China's electric vehicles will hurt Europe's interests and hinder its development.

For the EU, imposing anti-subsidy tariffs is not an answer to the challenges facing the European automotive industry. Rather, it could easily escalate into a new trade conflict, sparking a spiral of protectionism. As China plays a major role in green transformation, the potential trade conflict with China will jeopardize global e-transformation, Mueller said.

### Cooperation the main tone

The automobile industry is the most globalized industry in the world. Globalization should be driven by openness and cooperation, said Ling Ji, Chinese vice minister of commerce, and China's deputy international trade representative.

For any country and region, any market and any industry, what's needed is an active industrial strategy. Europe in particular must ensure that the conditions for business are improved. It is about lower energy prices, fewer taxes and levies, and, above all, less red tape. It

needs to be backed by a proactive trade policy. This is the sole path to unleashing the immense innovative potential within the NEV industry, Mueller said.

As the global transformation towards NEVs continues and the need for new technology standards and cross-border data flow rises, cooperation should be intensified, Mueller said. She urged all countries to focus on the development of the NEV industry. Although there are challenges to multilateral cooperation, dialogue and cooperation remain the only way and should be the main tone to overcome all odds.

### Stakeholders for transformation

Climate protection is a global effort. Sustainable development, which is also for future generations, can succeed only if all groups involved work together.

"China has been promoting the development of NEVs for more than 20 years. We know that in the global automotive electrification transformation, the pain points, difficulties and bottlenecks faced by various countries are becoming increasingly prominent," said Wan Gang, president of the China Association for Science and Technology and also president of the WNEVC at the 2024 plenum.

"I hope that the automotive industries in China and abroad and the departments of various countries communicate with each other, enhance mutual understanding and trust, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and achieve mutual benefit and win-win results," he said.

Global R&D, production and procurement are important ways for the automotive industry to synergize global resources and achieve economies of scale.

"Given the significant resources required to deliver green transformation solutions, collaboration among industry players is imperative because limited resources and advanced technologies are globally dispersed," Mueller said, adding that new technologies can activate more potential and help reshape the future of the auto or the entire transportation industry.

Jochen Goller, a member of the BMW's management board, echoed these sentiments. He emphasized that an open market is an important driver for innovation. He welcomed Chinese auto enterprises to set up branches in Europe, and said he expects to collaborate with stakeholders in pursuing low-carbon development.



The 2024 World New Energy Vehicle Congress is held in Haikou, Hainan province in south China, from September 27 to 29. (PHOTO: VCG)

# New Pacts to Deepen China-Spain Sci-tech Cooperation

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Renowned scholars shared their research findings and experiences in international collaboration during the plenary session. Miguel A. Fernández Sanjuán, an academician from the Royal Academy of Sciences of Spain and a professor at the King Juan Carlos University in Madrid, reflected on his two-decade-long research journey in China. Nazario Martín, a professor at the Complutense

University of Madrid, presented the latest developments in molecular nanography.

The deliberations demonstrated the spirit of borderless scientific exploration and reinforced the bonds of friendship between Chinese and Spanish scientists, deepening mutual understanding between the scientific and industrial communities of both countries and their technological cooperation.

# Delivering Earth Intelligence for All

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To deliver "Earth Intelligence for All," we need to be together, said Evangelos Gerasopoulos, GEO programme board co-chair, and research director at the Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development of the National Observatory of Athens.

He believed that the ingredients for such a collaboration have many flavors, and we need to bear in mind all principles and values that nations have

in order to succeed. We need strong pillars for this and China is no doubt one of them.

During the event, the GEO China Secretariat released an initiative, calling on all members of GEO, other organizations and individuals around the world who are committed to Earth intelligence to take joint actions and make new efforts and contributions to the new goals of understanding, protecting and utilizing our planet.