

Saudi Youths Inspired by President Xi's Reply to Their Letter

My China Story

By Staff Reporters



Alruwaili Faisal Sabti, one of the Chinese learners and enthusiasts who wrote a letter to President Xi Jinping. (COURTESY PHOTO)

"It came as a great and pleasant surprise to me that President Xi Jinping managed to reply to our letter despite his busy schedule," said Alruwaili Faisal Sabti, one of the Chinese learners and enthusiasts who wrote a letter to the Chinese leader and recently received a reply.

In 2022, the Sino-foreign Language Exchange and Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Education and Chinese Testing International (CTI) launched an online seminar for international Chinese teacher scholarships in Saudi Arabia. More than 1,000 people participated in the Chinese language training project. As one of the host universities, Tianjin University undertook the training of 90 Saudi students in this project.

Sabti and six others who co-wrote the letter, got to know each other while attending an online Chinese training program at Tianjin University, supported by the International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship from June to October 2022. "At the end of the program, we wanted to share our feelings of learning Chinese with President Xi and our dedi-

cation to being envoys of friendship between the two countries. With the encouragement of our Chinese teachers, we joined the group of more than 100 Saudi people in the same program at different universities to write the letter," he said.

During the training program, Sabti was fascinated with Chinese culture and made up his mind to further his studies in China. "I'm planning to study for my master's degree at Tianjin University as I learned it is the first modern university in China," said Sabti.

Yin Xiaojing, Sabti's Chinese teacher from Tianjin University's School of International Education was proud of the students. "President Xi said that language is the best key to understanding a country. It's our goal to help Saudi youths grasp an idea of what China is like through language and culture learning. To achieve this, we tried to provide a relaxing, engaging and fun learning environment." According to Yin, besides Chinese language classes, the university designed many courses about Chinese food, festivals and traditional culture, hoping to give a panoramic view of

China during the program.

Kholoud Mohammed Almutairi from the King Saud University, another co-writer of the letter, said he loves the courses about Chinese cuisine, adding that, "There is a Chinese restaurant near my home, so I [can get to] know more about Chinese food. If chance permits, I shall visit China and try authentic Chinese food, like Kung Pao Chicken."

Many Saudi youths paid great attention to the first China-Arab States Summit and the China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit. Samiyah Aaleh Almutairi from the King Abdulaziz University is among them. He believes that the summit could have a great impact on his future career. "China and Saudi Arabia are having greater ties with each other. Learning Chinese will prove to be a huge advantage in the future. I'd like to work in an international company that fosters cooperation and exchanges between the two countries and, as President Xi has urged in his [letter] reply, make contributions to enhancing China-Saudi Arabia and China-Arab relations."

Source: Tianjin University

Letter to the Editor

Innovation Drives China's Development

By Show Kuan Yeow



Professor Show Kuan Yeow. (COURTESY PHOTO)

As the world's second-largest economy, China aims to become a global driver in the high-tech product market, to move from an investment-based to a knowledge-based economy. Decades of rapid economic growth has allowed China to invest in crucial areas that drive innovation, such as R&D and the creation of indigenous intellectual property. These investments have elevated China's Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking and enabled the country to compete with advanced economies, such as the U.S. and EU.

China is now home to many of the fastest start-ups to reach one billion USD valuation globally. It ranks 11th in the GII 2022 and for the third year in a row, owns more companies on the 2022 Fortune Global 500 than any other country, while total revenues and profits of Chinese companies hit record highs. And this year, for the first time, the revenues of Chinese companies on the list exceeded those of U.S. companies.

China's total research output has grown rapidly in recent years. It has overtaken the U.S. for the first time in terms of the average number of high-quality scientific papers produced from 2017 to 2019, according to a report by Japanese Science and Technology Indicators 2021.

The statistics issued by the World Intellectual Property Organization showed that China ranked first in international patent application volume in 2021 for the third consecutive year, surpassing the U.S. which ranked second.

China today has an R&D resource that no other country has. China's innovation ecosystem, encompassing a vast

population that has lived through extraordinary transformation, can adopt innovations at a scale and pace unrivaled anywhere else globally. Forming China's innovation ecosystem, this new generation of consumers is what makes China so globally competitive today. China has demonstrated its capacity to innovate, and can certainly compete at a global level with developed countries that have built their economies on innovation for decades.

Apart from the above-mentioned progress, China has made notable achievements in protecting and improving the environment. It is clear that the country is committed to improving the environment. In resolving the conflict between long-term economic growth and environmental protection, China is in a good position to combat pollution and leapfrog to sustainable economic development.

China's secret recipe for success is, in fact, an open secret, comprising key ingredients including commitment, determination and persistence. Its many success stories in environmental protection set an example by practicing what it advocates.

To sustain current economic growth, China is expected to transform into a knowledge-based economy. Innovation is perceived to be a key approach to maintaining the momentum of its economic development. The 20th CPC National Congress further emphasized the determination of China to develop a national innovation system, which will be established through a market-oriented system for technological innovation, whereby enterprises are the main players. Initiatives are being made to couple economic growth with innovation-driven ecological improvement.

In line with the government's initiatives, Puritek Juneng envisions becoming a leading wastewater treatment enterprise. Further R&D work will be engaged to develop advanced innovations so as to enhance company competency. The enterprise is optimistic about the prospects of the environmental industry, and is set to expand its business in and beyond China. I enjoy my current work within China and believe life will be exciting in the coming years.

Show Kuan Yeow, a renowned Malaysian scientist, has devoted himself to industrial and municipal wastewater treatment for more than three decades. He currently serves as the director of the Research Institute at Zhejiang Juneng, subsidiary of an environmental protection company Puritek in Malaysia.

The Sage of Tea and His Epoch-making Work

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

By Staff Reporters

China has a sophisticated tea culture. Tea was discovered and consumed for the first time in China several thousand years ago, and drinking tea has become a daily ritual for Chinese.

Over time, a complex tea ceremony has evolved, and when we discuss Chinese tea culture today, we should not overlook an important figure in Chinese history. He is Lu Yu, also known as the "Sage of Tea," for his contributions to the development of Chinese tea culture.

Though tea drinking originated in Southern China during the middle of the Tang Dynasty, it gradually later began to gain popularity in northern regions, and was a national custom at the time.

According to historical records, Lu was an orphan during the Tang Dynasty who was adopted by a monk in modern-day Tianmen, in central China's Hubei province. After several decades of investigation into matter relating to tea in different regions, Lu focused on tea research during his later years. His research findings were documented in his renowned masterwork, the *Classic of Tea* or *Cha Jing*, which integrates knowledge in diverse fields and lays the foundation for the further development of Chinese tea culture. It is the earliest and most comprehensive monograph on tea culture in China and possibly the world.

In fact, the book is not large in volume and only contains 7000 Chinese characters in the traditional language of the Tang Dynasty, a refined and poetic style of Chinese.

In his book, Lu attempted to present all known information regarding Chinese tea culture. It is separated into three dis-



A sculpture of Lu Yu, also known as the "Sage of Tea," is located at Dayan Pogoda, Xi'an, Shaanxi province. (PHOTO: VCG)

tinct sections. The first section contains three chapters on tea and its production. The second part contains one chapter listing production tools. The final section has six chapters covering topics ranging from tea evaluation to old records.

The seventh chapter, titled *Important Tea Events*, is perhaps the most historically significant, as it details tea-related events from legendary times to the Tang Dynasty.

In conclusion, this work examines a range of topics, including tea culture, tea art, tea history, botany, biology, agriculture, medicine, geography, hydrology, pottery, tea farming equipment, and tea production.

The Classic of Tea laid the foundation for Chinese tea evolution by providing a thorough discussion of pivotal issues in tea culture, disseminating scientific knowledge of the tea industry, encouraging the growth of the tea industry, and promoting innovation in tea production.

Service Info

What is the Right Thing to Do in the Face of Omicron?

By Bi Weizi

With the decreasing pathogenicity of the coronavirus Omicron and expanding COVID-19 vaccination coverage, China is now facing new challenges of how to protect the general population, especially those at high risk of severe illness, and how to deal with the need for their medication?

Wang Guiqiang, member of the State Council Expert Group on Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism, provided answers on what people should be doing to protect themselves at this time.

Q1: Who are the people at high risk of severe illness? What should

they do?

A: There are three main groups of people at high risk, namely people over 60 years old, patients with underlying diseases, and people who have not been vaccinated.

If infected with the virus, these people, especially senior citizens with underlying diseases, are prone to develop serious illnesses that may even lead to death. For them, the most effective protection is vaccination. The latest approach from the State Council's Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism calls for further awareness of vaccination and accelerated vaccination in the elderly.

Medical personnel should scientifi-

cally determine contraindications to vaccination, including serious allergic reactions such as anaphylaxis and laryngeal edema that occurred during previous vaccinations; infectious and viral diseases in the acute stage. Vaccination should also be suspended for patients undergoing chemotherapy, patients with hypertensive crisis, patients who have had heart attacks, and patients who are in the progressive stage of autoimmune neurological diseases. Otherwise, vaccination is still the most efficient way to protect yourself.

Q2: At present, what else should people do to protect themselves?

A: For the general population, we should wash our hands regularly, wear a

mask properly when we go out, ventilate often, and do not gather [in groups]. Balanced nutrition, proper rest, reasonable exercise, and a good state of mind also help.

Patients with chronic underlying diseases should adhere to their medication in accordance with medical advice. Patients with chronic respiratory diseases should try to go out less when the temperature drops suddenly.

Monitor your health if having fever, sore throat, cough and other discomforts. If people at high risk of serious illness experience persistent high fever and difficulty in breathing, seek prompt medical help to avoid aggravation of the disease.

China-Arab Sci-tech Cooperation Strengthened

From page 1

Under the BRI framework, the two parties have conducted over 200 large cooperative projects in energy and infrastructure, bringing benefit to nearly two billion people from the two sides.

In particular, the cooperation in green energy was extensive, such as the Al Dhafra solar photovoltaic power plant in United Arab Emirates, which is the world's largest single-site solar pow-

er plant, and the Shobak wind project in Jordan, which was supposed to save around 75,000 tons of CO₂.

Chinese-Egyptian Renewable Energy Laboratory and China-Arab clear energy training center were also built to facilitate both research and application of advanced technologies in green energy.

Regarding cooperation in high-tech, China and Arab countries have jointly carried out the BRI sci-tech inno-

vation action plan. The first China-Arab States Technology Transfer and Innovation Cooperation Conference was held in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in 2015, during which China-Arab States Technology Transfer Center and five overseas bilateral technology transfer centers were established.

China has also signed multiple cooperation documents with Arab countries in terms of aerospace and satel-

lites, helping the successful launch of Algeria's ALCOMSAT-1 communications satellite, Saudi Arabia's Earth observation satellites SaudiSat-5A and SaudiSat-5B, and a scientific experiment satellite for Sudan.

In addition, the China-Arab States BDS Cooperation Forum was established, and the China-Arab BDS/GNSS Center in Tunisia is the first overseas center of BDS.

Photo News

Tai Chi Goes Global



On December 17th, 2020, Chinese Tai Chi, a centuries-old martial art and a popular form of exercise, was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This health-promoting activity is currently gaining popularity worldwide. This picture shows a Belgian woman practices Tai Chi in Brussels, Belgium. (PHOTO: XINHUA)