

Prosperity of China Brings Opportunities for the All

By LONG Yun

In April of 2006, 52-year-old Ömer Sahin Ganiyusufoglu, a member of German National Academy of Science and Engineering, accepted an offer to work at a Sino-German joint venture in a Chinese coastal city Dalian, which began the first chapter of the German's China story.

At that time, Ganiyusufoglu was already a world-renowned expert in the international engineering field. He told *Science and Technology Daily* recently that moving to China seemed not that difficult. After all, he is passionate about taking on new challenges and breaking new ground.



Professor Ömer Sahin Ganiyusufoglu. (COURTESY PHOTO)

An unbeatable country

His first impression of China was its vast population and close connection between people. The 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, however, gave him new insight into the resilience of the Chinese people and the "power of China." This is what motivated Ganiyusufoglu spend so many years in the country. "At that time, Chinese people united as one body and worked for one aim to get through difficulties," he said.

After 16 years of many adventures in China, he now serves as an industrial development consultant at Qingdao International Academician Park, an international platform for sci-tech innovation and commercialization. Thanks to his previous experiences accumulated in both business and academia, he is able to view China's development and its implications for the rest of the world with greater objectivity and depth.

When Ganiyusufoglu first visited China, the machinery industry was underdeveloped. Now, however, he says advanced manufacturing technologies are being vigorously promoted in China. Furthermore, the industrial sector is experiencing a period of unprecedented digital transformation. Ganiyusufoglu has seen the growth of China as a major player in advanced international technology, not only in his field, but in a wide range of industries. Meanwhile, Chinese high-tech businesses are expanding their global reach.

He attributed China's rapid growth to its combination of top-down strategy and bottom-up initiative. From his perspective, the Chinese government is good at creating long-term and meticulously planned strategies. More importantly, unlike some politicians in Western countries, China's top leaders take concrete steps to realize all the goals of social-economic development. At the same time, "Chinese people are very business-oriented," he said, noting that the effectiveness of the Chinese people in turning concepts into tangible benefits also contributes to China's development.

Win-win cooperation

Ganiyusufoglu is an active practitioner of promoting international cooperation. As a Western expert working in China, he strikes a balance in promoting mutual understanding between China and Western countries. In dealing with cross-cultural relationships, he cherishes the role of "understanding," "respect," and "adapting" to remove barriers.

As a result, he is one of those experts who value China's growth as an opportunity instead of a threat. "China's participation is crucial to address global challenges effectively," he said, believing cooperation with China should be a long-term strategic choice for Western countries, including Germany. On many important occasions, he appealed for dialogue and exchanges between Germany and China and applauds China's role in promoting global opening-up and cooperation in the recent past.

Based on his observations, Ganiyusufoglu saw the potential of the two countries working together in many fields. For example, combining Germany's machine-building capabilities with China's digital tech could generate tangible benefits for win-win cooperation. Moreover, in the educational sphere, China could gain some advanced experience from the German dual educational system. He advised that China's educational system should better deal with the relationship between the theoretical and practical.

Although the U.S. continues its attempt to "decouple" from China, more and more countries and experts are clearly seeing the negative impact of such an irrational action on the world. "Such an erroneous move as decoupling goes against the trend of the times and will not benefit any country or any person," he said.

"The world is interconnected and the future lies in win-win cooperation," he highlighted, adding that countries can benefit humanity only by building consensus and working together for progress.

Expats Activities

Guanren Community Makes Expats Feel at Home

By Staff Reporters

On December 17, the Guanren Community Branch of the Xiamen Service Center for Foreign Experts hosted an event focused on enhancing international community services for foreign experts currently living in China.

A number of expats shared their perspectives on working and living in this city and participating in community service at the event. Expats applauded the role of the Guanren community in facilitating their integration into China and its culture.

Raymond Mitchel, a teacher at Manila Xiamen International School, is working on a project to improve children's mental health during the pandemic. The Guanren community has provided him with a place to make his goal a reality. "I am extremely grateful to the community and the service center for their assistance and targeted services," he said, adding that it is a tremendous help in moving his project forward.

Uwe, a German artist, arrived in Xiamen to work eight years ago. Now having his own business, he has long regarded Xiamen as his home for many years. "I hope Xiamen will continue to improve, and we are eager to play our

[part by using our] strengths and contribute to this beautiful city." Together with his friends, he has established a social networking platform to provide more international professionals with up-to-date information about living and working in China.

The general manager of the Marco Polo Xiamen, a Frenchman named Jean-Philippe Jacopin, appreciated the service center for their support over the years and noted that he would collaborate with his team and peers to carry out some charitable projects.

At the same time, expats shared their constructive suggestions for enhancing the guidebook for foreign experts in Xiamen and pledged to make full use of their own experiences and perspectives to promote the internationalization of Xiamen.

Throughout the past year, the Guanren community has made steady efforts to assist foreigners in living more comfortably in Xiamen. It has conducted a series of themed activities to improve the cultural integration and communication between foreign families and local people.

Source: Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Science and Technology

Service Info

Necessity, Efficacy and Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines

Edited by BI Weizi

Ten new guidelines released by the State Council's Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism proposed to speed up vaccination of the elderly population. Authorities are committed to ensuring the vaccines reach as many senior citizens as possible.

Necessity: the elderly more prone to develop serious complications

Xia Gang, an official with the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control, said that a considerable proportion of the elderly in China are disabled and semi-disabled, but they may still be infected when visited by their relatives or care-takers.

Compared with previous strains of the COVID-19, Omicron is becoming less pathogenic, but more infectious. With its extremely fast transmission rate against such a large population, the number of people at risk should not be underestimated.

At a recent press conference, Xia in-

troduced that, the risk of mortality for people over 80 years old who are infected with the novel coronavirus is about 14.7 percent if they do not receive any vaccine; the rate drops to 7.16 percent and 1.5 percent respectively after one and three shots.

Efficacy: vaccines shown to reduce the risk of serious complications dramatically

"Studies from home and abroad confirm that vaccination has been very effective in preventing serious illness and death," said Xia, adding that the elderly are more likely to develop severe complications and even death after contracting the virus, therefore they are the demographic who benefit the most from vaccination.

Beijing Ditan Hospital admitted more than one hundred COVID-19 patients over 80 at most. Chen Xiaoyou, vice president of the hospital, said that the vaccination rate of these elderly patients is generally low, and the incidents of serious illness after infection are rela-

tively high, especially when their underlying diseases are aggravated by the virus.

In October 2022, *The Lancet - Infectious Diseases* published research findings based on a real-world vaccinated population by a research team associated with the School of Public Health, University of Hong Kong. The study showed that among persons aged ≥60 years in Hong Kong, the risk for death was 20 times lower among those who were fully vaccinated compared with those who were unvaccinated.

Safety: ensuring safety with clear contraindications guidelines

It's reported that in many parts of China the recent enthusiasm for vaccination among the elderly has increased significantly, but some are still concerned about its safety. "Chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension are not absolute contraindications to vaccination. As long as these chronic diseases are well controlled and in a stable stage, patients can receive COVID-19 vaccine shots," said Zheng Zhongwei, director of

the Development Center for Medical Science and Technology of the National Health Commission.

Convenience: providing services for the most vulnerable

The community of Jinbiyayuan in Baiyun District, Guangzhou, opened a special vaccination site for the elderly aged 60 and above. Similar convenient vaccination sites for the elderly have also been established in other parts of the country.

Moreover, green channels, temporary vaccination sites and mobile vaccination vans for the elderly have been set up, and experienced medical personnel in diagnosis and vaccination have been selected to form vaccination teams, carrying common equipment and medicines needed during post-vaccination observation to provide door-to-door vaccination services for the disabled and semi-disabled elderly. Many places are optimizing various convenience measures as required in order for the COVID-19 vaccines to reach the most vulnerable wherever possible.



Expats share their perspectives on living and working in Xiamen at the event. (PHOTO: Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Science and Technology)

Photo News

Paper Cutting Expressing Hope



One inheritor of the intangible cultural heritage shows her paper cutting artwork. (PHOTO: VCG)

Paper cutting is one of the most popular decorative Chinese handicrafts. In 2009, Chinese paper cutting was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. According to UNESCO, paper cutting, found throughout China and in various ethnic groups, is a popular art integral to everyday life.

Paper cutting conveys the content and nature of traditional culture with its own particular language. Despite its uses for some rituals in ancient times, paper cutting has evolved to a kind of decoration today.

It is usually made with red paper, the most popular and propitious color in Chinese culture. Apart from adorning walls, windows, doors, pillars and lanterns, they can also be given as gifts. Paper cuttings are popular because of their expression of wishes and hopes. For example, during the Chinese New Year or other important festivals, the paper cutting of the character 'Fu' (blessing in Chinese) is pasted upside down on the door to express people's wish for the coming of good luck.

China Issues New Measures to Promote International Travels

Edited by LONG Yun

On December 27, the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council issued a notification on interim measures for travelers between China and other countries and regions.

According to the notification, from January 8, 2023, travelers to China will only need to present a negative nucleic acid test result within 48 hours at cus-

oms without having to apply for a health code from Chinese embassies and consulates abroad. If their test results are positive, traveling to China will be allowed after the results turn negative. Inbound passengers need to fill in the customs health declaration forms.

Measures to control the number of international passenger flights, including the "five-one" policy (Every foreign airline is required to maintain only one

air route to China and operates no more than one flight a week) and the passenger load factor limit, will be lifted. Nevertheless, airlines will continue to prevent disease on board, and passengers shall be required to wear masks on board.

Furthermore, the policy of mass COVID-19 testing and centralized isolation for all overseas travelers entering China will be canceled. In terms of passengers presented with a fever, they can

take a rapid antigen test. Infected travelers with mild symptoms can isolate themselves at home or conduct self-monitoring. Those travelers with severe symptoms will be encouraged to see doctor.

In addition, new measures will continuously improve arrangements for foreign nationals traveling to China for work and production resumption, business, study, family visits, and reunions.

Shanghai Honors Foreign Experts for Their Contribution

By Staff Reporters

On December 18, fifty foreign experts from 13 countries, including Australia, Germany, France, Japan, Italy and the U.S., were honored with the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award in recogni-

tion of their contributions to the city's development, international cooperation and the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

These expats work in Shanghai in various fields, ranging from business, finance, shipping and education to sci-

ence and technology, health care and culture.

In order to promote international communication, Shanghai began to honor expats in 1989 with the Magnolia Silver Award, and added the gold ward and honorary citizenship into the system in

1992 and 1997 respectively. The city has honored more than 1,700 foreigners in total in the past 33 years for their outstanding contributions.

Source: Shanghai Municipal People's Government