

Understanding China through Culture

Dialogue

By LONG Yun & BI Weizi

"I find a very welcoming and warm academic environment in China and Nankai University (NKU), which is stimulating for conducting my studies," said Italian Professor Rocco Lacorte in a recent interview with *Science and Technology Daily*, adding that the ideal academic environment in China is conducive for him to carry out Marxism research.

Putting translating theory into practice

This Marxist scholar attaches great importance to the study of translating theory into practice. He explains that his interest in the subject stems from his background in philosophy, specifically Marxist philosophy. He underlines the significance of the relationship between knowledge and experience and the importance of understanding the process of translation, which he associates with the studies of Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci.

According to Lacorte, knowledge alone is insufficient to make substantial changes and must be translated into effective practice. He believes that the Marxist theory of translation offers a way to innovate both in theory and practice, highlighting the role of communicating and its importance to the public. In order to maximize the effects, Lacorte emphasizes the flexibility of adapting to different environments. His words and approach are always tailored to the audience he is addressing.

Culture, a key element to understanding China

Lacorte interprets his deep attrac-



Professor Rocco Lacorte. (COURTESY PHOTO)

China has emerged as a global leader in scientific research and technological innovation in recent years, achieving breakthroughs in various fields of study.

tion by China's culture through Marxist views. According to him, culture is an ongoing process of unification between theory and practice, knowledge and experience. In this sense, he sees China as "a leading example of culture," where the translation of knowledge into effective practice improves the well-being of the people through applying theoretical innovation.

One of the main reasons why China's culture attracts Lacorte is its historical development spanning over 5,000 years, which makes a significant difference with respect to other countries and explains the success of the ongoing evolution in China. He also sees

culture as a key element to understanding China's good governance and success.

For Lacorte, China's high-level culture, as well as the Communist Party of China's extraordinary ability, is improving the well-being of the people through the application of theoretical innovation. This, in turn, implies a very high and deep collective political consciousness, which goes back to the many years of cultural and pedagogical work that has been done in the country. From his perspective, the ability to translate between theory and practice can only be performed when culture has reached a certain level of historical development.

Impressed by the dynamic and promising research environment

Lacorte also noted the incredible speed at which China has achieved economic, environmental, and social achievements in recent years. He is particularly impressed by the highly organized and advanced nature of China's research and innovation environment, which he believes is comparable to the most developed countries in the world.

"China has emerged as a global leader in scientific research and technological innovation in recent years, achieving breakthroughs in various fields of study," said Lacorte, when expressing his positivity about working in China and his observations on China's sci-tech innovative environment.

Lacorte noted that China has five cities ranked in the top 30 according to the Global Innovation Hubs Index (GIHI) 2022.

"The country has become a global driving force of industrial transformation, supporting innovation and creating a greener environment," said Lacorte, adding that China is ahead of the West regarding developing a sustainable and greener world. He believes that China has almost created "a miracle" in achieving technological innovation in the last few years. China's research environment is dynamic, attractive, and promising for the future of China and the world.

Lacorte attributed China's rapid progress in innovation to its awareness of the need to adapt its knowledge to the changing developmental conditions, both locally and internationally. This awareness, coupled with the country's financial capacity, creates a highly dynamic environment where innovation can thrive, he said.

This article is also contributed by LUAN Jianhong from NKU.

My China Story

Young Turkish Entrepreneur Thrives in Tianjin

By YIN Wei

"China's big manufacturing industry provides the basic foundation for my business and [is helping to] make my dream come true," said Oguzhan Arslan, a 29-year-old Turkish entrepreneur who started his own business as an international trade agent in 2022, after graduating with a master's degree from Tianjin University (TJU).

"I serve as a bridge between the demands in international markets and China's manufacturing industries, and promote international trade development," said Arslan, who lauds China's developed transportation network and extremely high manufacturing efficiency, which provided a solid foundation for his business. He is also grateful for his study experience in China, which opened his mind to the world and provided the necessary knowledge and skills he needed as an entrepreneur.

From growing up in the small town of Tokat in Türkiye to a graduate from TJU and then going on to become a young entrepreneur in China, Arslan is steadily closing in on his ambition of becoming a successful businessman, something he has cherished since childhood.

Both of Arslan's grandparents ran grocery stores for a living when he was growing up. For the young boy, selling and buying things was not only an exchange of goods and money but also happiness and friendship. "When the deal was done, you could feel the satisfaction and happiness of both sides. It brought a special sense of fulfillment. That is when I decided to pursue business as my life's career," he said.

After graduating from Boğaziçi Üniversitesi in Türkiye, he decided to further his studies in China. "China has been developing fast these years and committed to sharing its achievements with the world. So I think by studying in China, there will be more job and life opportunities." After contacting several universities Arslan finally settled on TJU.

On being presented with several faculty options, Arslan discussed the way forward with a TJU professor, who later became his tutor, and helped him make his final decision.

He chose the College of Management and Economics at TJU for its high reputation for excellence.

"Prof. Dou Ruiliang gave me hope. He was candid about the possible difficulties I would face, but he assured me that with hard work, he believed I could



Mr. Oguzhan Arslan. (COURTESY PHOTO)

be successful," said Arslan.

He admits, however, that he had a hard time adjusting to life and study at TJU. "Before I entered TJU, I learned Chinese for a year and a half. But while my Chinese proficiency sufficed for daily communications, it was definitely not good enough for academic lectures and classes. I could only understand 50 percent of in-class content for the first year," he said. To make up for the lost content, Arslan partnered up with another international student as his tutor suggested, and together they persevered despite struggling to keep pace with the academic requirements. He also found some online English courses as supplementary learning material.

All the hard work paid off and Arslan passed the academic tests and obtained a Tianjin Municipal Government Scholarship for two consecutive years and he graduated on time with a master's degree in June 2022.

"My educational experience at TJU not only equipped me with the necessary knowledge about entrepreneurship but also endowed me with the opportunity to learn about Chinese people and Chinese society," said Arslan, adding that his idea of starting a business became increasingly more evident as his graduation day approached.

The enthusiastic young entrepreneur hoped he could continue to grow his business brand and extend his business from China to Türkiye in the future.

This article is contributed by TJU. The author is from the publicity department of TJU.

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

Cultivation of Citrus in Ancient China

By BI Weizi

Citrus is a genus of flowering trees or shrubs in the Rutaceae family. Oranges, lemons, grapefruit, pomelos, and limes are all popular citrus fruits around the world for their rich nutritional content and aromatic fragrance.

Various citrus varieties have been used and domesticated by the indigenous cultures of South and East Asia, and Australia since ancient times, and it is difficult to pinpoint the true origins of these fruits, as much hybridization and introgression has been involved in the process of domesticating citrus species.

While *Genomics of the origin and evolution of Citrus* by Guohong Albert Wu suggested that the center of origin of citrus species was the southeastern foothills of the Himalayas, including western Yunnan, on the basis of genomic, phylogenetic and biogeographic anal-

yses. This postulation, which was also supported by many ancient literary works, such as *Shangshu (Classic of History)*, which is a collection of rhetorical prose attributed to figures of ancient China dating from the 10th century BC, when citrus fruits were so rare and prized that they were only available for the imperial court.

During the Tang (618-906) and Song (960-1279) dynasties, citrus cultivation became an industry in Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Sichuan, and cultivars such as lemon, tangerine, mandarin, pomelo and orange were established. Fruit tree pruning, pest prevention and control, fruit harvesting, storage and other related technologies had also reached a fairly advanced level.

Citrus was introduced to the West by the Arabs in the 12th century, and later spread rapidly throughout the world during the great geographical discovery

period. Through continuous selection and breeding by horticulturists in different countries, thousands of varieties

have been produced. Currently, China is the second largest producer of citrus fruits.



An orange orchard in orange island, Changsha, Hunan province. (PHOTO: VCG)

Myth Buster

Science Outreach

By Staff Reporters

Rumor 1: A vegetarian diet can protect against fatty liver.

Fact: Even people who have been vegetarians for a long time, who are malnourished, and who have lost too much weight, can get fatty liver. Fat metabolism requires apolipoproteins as a "vehicle." When protein intake is insuff-

icient and the body does not have enough apolipoproteins, the liver is unable to transport excess fat out of the body, so it accumulates in the liver and leads to fatty liver.

Rumor 2: Honey and garlic can cure H. pylori infection.

Fact: Honey and garlic do not treat H. pylori infection (bacteria that infects the stomach). Although the bacteria wilt in honey due to water loss, honey is diluted when it enters the stomach and cannot achieve the bactericidal effect. Although the allicin contained in garlic can inhibit the growth of bacteria, it will be decomposed after entering the body, and it is difficult to exert

bactericidal and antibacterial effects.

Rumor 3: Myopia can be cured by surgery.

Fact: Myopia is not reversible. The cause of myopia is the elongation of the eye axis. At this stage, any means, including surgery and eyeglasses, can only correct vision, not restore the eye axis to its original shape. Therefore, prevention is more important.

Rumor 4: Eating only fruit can help you lose weight.

Fact: A fruit-only diet is not a healthy and effective way to lose weight. A variety of nutrients such as protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals are needed to maintain

good health. Eating only fruit for a long time can lead to malnutrition, and some fruits are high in sugar and can even cause weight gain if consumed in excess.

Rumor 5: There are radiation hazards when living near a power substation.

Fact: The AC frequency of substations in China is 50Hz, which is a very low frequency in the field of electromagnetic radiation, so residents need not worry. At the same time, substations have a certain coverage area, or power supply radius, beyond which effective power supply cannot be guaranteed, so urban substations cannot be moved away from residential areas at will.

CDF: China's Economy Rebounds

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He also said that supporting sci-tech innovation will be prioritized with more investment and that the Ministry of Finance will promote the transformation and upgrade of traditional industries, and accelerate the development of strategic emerging industries.

China will promote the building of a high-standard market system, and create a first-rate business environment that is marketized, law-based and international, said Zheng, adding that the country will implement high-standard opening-up and promote the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Chinese Hydropower Lights up Zambia

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During the construction of the hydropower station, POWERCHINA also spared no effort to help enhance the livelihood of local people, including building roads and bridges, digging wells and opening skill training schools. In addition, around 15,000 jobs were also created.

Gift Kapanda, one of the beneficiaries, was first enrolled in the training school opened by POWERCHINA in 2017, and later became a technician at

the hydropower station, participating in the installation and debugging of electrical equipment of unit 4 and unit 5.

The Kafue Gorge Lower Hydropower Station is a flagship cooperation project between China and Zambia under the Belt and Road Initiative, and also the largest infrastructure project in nearly 40 years. Apart from satisfying the electricity needs of Zambia, the hydropower station could also help to export electricity to neighboring countries like Malawi and Zimbabwe.