

# 'Bright Internet' Fortifies Cybersecurity

## Dialogue

By LONG Yun & BI Weizi

In the fast-paced era of digitalization, with cybersecurity being such a major point of concern, Korean scholar Jae Kyu Lee has emerged as an important figure, spearheading efforts to create a safer digital environment.

As a distinguished professor at the School of Management and Director of the Bright Internet Research Center at Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU), Lee's impact in the field is marked by innovation, dedication and a profound commitment to both individuals and the academic community.

His colleagues describe him as a "kind-hearted" and "responsible" leader, highlighting the positive influence he has on students and those around him. One of his assistants told *Science and Technology Daily*, "The professor is very considerate and almost does charity work every year," underlining not only his academic achievements but also his compassionate nature.

**Bright Internet born**  
Lee's journey to the field of Information Systems began in the 1980s. The advent of e-commerce in 1995, propelled by the widespread commercialization of the World Wide Web, further shaped his career path.

Reflecting on the evolution of this field, Lee emphasized the critical nature of cybersecurity in today's digital landscape. "Cybersecurity and privacy have been the top concerns for Chief Information Officers for the last consecutive eight years," he said. The fundamental



Professor Jae Kyu Lee speaking at a meeting. (COURTESY PHOTO)

reason, as he explained, lies in the design of the TCP/IP protocol, which is primarily geared towards operational efficiency rather than addressing cybersecurity risks.

Acknowledging the limitations of this approach, Lee introduced the concept of Bright Internet. Guided by the Principles of Origin Responsibility and Deliverer Responsibility, Bright Internet aims to actively eradicate the origins of threats in "systematic efforts". However, Lee is quick to raise the need to "assure the privacy and freedom of expression of innocent netizens globally."

Over the past five years, he and his team have not only designed and developed the Bright Internet Test Bed, but have also studied its validity, incorporating valuable opinions from netizens to refine and advance this cybersecurity approach.

Beyond technical aspects, Lee and

his team noticed that the Bright Internet research needs the synergy of technology development and business models, with adequate public policy and international collaboration.

**Calling for collective responsibility**  
From his perspective, Bright Internet research unfolds through two complementary approaches. Firstly, there's a focus on the detection and elimination of dark origins, like identifying and addressing the root causes of cyber threats. Secondly, Lee advocated for Bright Origins, which values social responsibility. Recognizing the challenges in completely detecting dark origins, the research places a significant reliance on fostering voluntary Bright Origins.

"Just as the individual producers' responsibility is important to curb carbon emissions, Bright Internet also needs to curb the commission of cybercrimes

from the origin," he said, calling for individual and collective responsibility in mitigating cyber threats.

As the founder of the Bright Internet Consortium and the director of the Bright Internet Research Center in XJTU, Lee values the role of the research center in promoting Bright Internet. "XJTU created a pioneering environment for the research of Bright Internet and it couldn't be better," he said, applauding the huge support from XJTU.

"To promote the direct value of self-interest and indirect social values of Bright Internet to a wide number of people and organizations, we need to spread the vision and provide free illustrative solutions to the public," he said, adding that a strategic balance between business motivation and complementary support from public policy is needed. In this pursuit, the center and the consortium become crucial players. "For this purpose, the research center needs to publish many research outcomes along with international scholars," said Lee, adding its role of steering the Bright Internet Global Symposium that enables the exchanges of ideas and outcomes through international meetings.

Turning to the role of international cooperation in the fields of e-commerce and cybersecurity, Lee highlighted the growing significance of cross-border activities, particularly between China and South Korea. According to Lee, the International Conference on Electronic Commerce (ICEC), co-organized by the two countries, has gradually become a mechanism of cooperation between the two nations.

*This article is also contributed by XJTU.*

## My China Story

# Cashless Lifestyle with Mobile Payments

By Mohammad Saiyedul Isla

One of the most significant changes in China's remarkable transformation in recent years is the widespread adoption of mobile payment methods, which has revolutionized people's lives, work, and transactions across the country.

Since the spring of 2018, when I arrived in China as an international student with a mix of excitement and trepidation, I have visited more than 150 cities in 26 provinces. Little did I know that my encounter with mobile payments would not only redefine my daily life, but also shape the course of my five-year adventure in this vibrant country, which transformed my entire experience into a seamless and unforgettable journey.

During my stay in China, I experienced firsthand how this technology made things easier, with everything from shopping to dining and transportation. My initiation into the world of Chinese mobile payments happened almost as soon as I set foot in the country.

Rising with the sun, I eagerly begin another day in the vibrant city of Nanchang, Jiangxi province, where mobile payment has seamlessly woven into daily life's fabric.

Now, after over five years in China, and living in Nanchang, mobile payments mean I never carry a wallet with me. Everything is streamlined and efficient from buying groceries at the local market to paying utility bills. It feels like I had unlocked the secret to effortless living.

Dining out in China is an absolute pleasure. Whether I am savoring the flavors of Sichuan hotpot, indulging in Peking duck, or trying street food in Chengdu, mobile payments simplify the process. With a quick scan of a QR code, I could settle the bill, leave a tip, and receive a digital receipt without exchanging a single

word with the waitstaff.

Mobile payment is also widely accepted in supermarkets and convenience stores across China. The shopping process is streamlined in that a scanned QR code displayed at the check-out counter streamlines the payment process, reduces queuing time, and eliminates the need for me to carry physical cash or cards.

I also ventured to more rural areas, where I thought mobile payments might not be as prevalent. Surprisingly, even in small villages, many vendors and shops accepted digital payments. This level of financial inclusivity was remarkable and truly showcased the reach of this technology.

Mobile payment apps have expanded beyond retail transactions to utility bill payments. Users can conveniently settle electricity, water, gas and internet bills on the app, eliminating the need to visit payment centers or banks. This simplifies the process and ensures bills are paid on time. Mobile payment apps have also made it easier for individuals to donate to charitable causes.

Transportation is also a breeze using WeChat Pay or Alipay, subways, buses, high-speed trains, taxis and flights can all be booked and paid for via a phone. Even shared bicycles or e-bikes use mobile payment apps and I can jump on a bike outside my apartment and pay for my trip when I get off at my destination via the ubiquitous QR code.

These examples and references highlight how mobile payments have permeated various aspects of daily life in China, bringing convenience, efficiency, and a cashless experience to countless transactions.

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## Traditional Eastern Wisdom

# Heatable Brick Beds Warm NE China Homes

By ZONG Shihan

In northeast China's chilly winter, getting into a warm bed is made possible by an ancient heatable brick bed that could date back more than two thousand years, and is still widely used today. These beds not only bring warmth to local residents, but also continue the folk culture of northeast China.

The bed is made of bricks or other forms of fired clay with a width of about 1.7 m to 2.3 m, and a length that can be determined according to the length of the bedroom. It uses a ducted heating system similar to the Roman hypocaust, composed of a stove, a bed and a chimney.

The stove is used to burn firewood. Smoke and heat generated by burning firewood pass through an internal hollow and curved flue system to heat the bed above. Smoke is eventually discharged outward through the chimney.

The bed retains heat well, which enables people to have a comfortable sleeping environment in the cold winter. In addition, sleeping on the heatable brick bed for a prolonged period is good for the blood circulation and metabolism of the body, and can relieve some diseases such as arthritis and waist and leg pain.

The heatable brick bed is not only used as a bed, but also a living area for the family. People routinely have their

meals and family gatherings on the bed in cold winters. In the hearts of many northeast Chinese people, the bed is a

symbol of home that embodies the emotion and love they feel towards their families.



In the cold winter, a family sits on their heatable brick bed to have a meal. (PHOTO: VCG)

## Service Info

# Spring Festival Listed as UN Floating Holiday

By Staff Reporters

On December 22, the Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, has been officially listed as a UN floating holiday in its

calendar of conferences and meetings as from 2024.

The UN General Assembly, in a resolution, acknowledges the significance of the Lunar New Year, which is ob-

served in many UN member states, and invites the UN bodies at headquarters and other duty stations, where observed, to avoid holding meetings on the Lunar New Year.

Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said after the adoption of the resolution that the Spring Festival, as a traditional Chinese holiday featuring family reunion and good wishes for the coming year, not only bears the ideas of the Chinese civilization of peace and harmony but also carries the common values of humanity such as harmonious family, social inclusion and sound relationship between man and nature.

The Lunar New Year is not only the most important festival in China, but also a major event in some other Asian

countries and regions. Many countries list the Lunar New Year as a national holiday, and about one-fifth of humanity celebrates this festival in various ways.

The Lunar New Year in 2024 will fall on February 10th in the Gregorian Calendar. The actual date changes every year but is always somewhere in the period from January 21 to February 20.

Regional customs and traditions vary widely but the theme of the event is the same: seeing out the old year and embracing the luck and prosperity of a new year.

The main Lunar New Year activities include putting up decorations and spring couplets, making offerings to ancestors, having reunion dinner with families on New Year's Eve and giving red envelopes to the beloved ones.



Tourists view lanterns at Laomendong scenic area in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province in Spring Festival. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

## Expats Activity

# Yantai Offers Legal Services for Foreign Experts

By XIU Jing & LONG Yun

Yantai, Shandong province, one of China's first batch of designated coastal cities with an open economy, shows a high level of internationalization and openness. With an increasing presence of foreign enterprises and foreign experts, there is a strong demand for diverse legal services to adapt to the development.

To help fill this demand, the Yantai Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) recently organized an event themed "Legal Service Lecture for Foreigners."

During the event, legal experts among the CPPCC members and staff from the Municipal Tax Bureau explained legal matters to foreign experts in a bilingual session. Participants from Pakistan, South Korea, Russia, UK, France, Japan and other countries actively engaged in the learning process and were involved in the in-depth discussions.

"For international students, this event is an excellent way to learn about Chinese laws," said Lantati, a Russian graduate student majoring in international education at Ludong University. She expressed her willingness

to live and work in China after graduation, emphasizing the importance of understanding local laws.

"Today, we have learned a lot of Chinese legal knowledge and received practical explanations about personal income tax, which is very useful for our future work in China," said another foreign student Alisa, also from Ludong University.

In recent years, Yantai has been making efforts to improve its business environment for foreign affairs, enhancing the soft environment for foreign-related activities. The Yantai CPPCC has collaborated with relevant departments to organize various events like "Legal Service Lecture for Foreigners" and "Foreign Medical Service Lecture." These events aim to address legal and health-related issues for foreigners working and living in the country.

"To this end, we will continue to leverage the role of CPPCC specialized committees, facilitate members to serve the public, and strive to provide guidelines for the work and life of foreigners working and living in Yantai, making them feel more secure and comfortable," said Dong Rui, director of Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Yantai CPPCC.