

Dialogue

# Growing with My Career in China

By XU Qingqun & BI Weizi



Mr. Silviu Negru. (PHOTO: International Talent Magazine)

In early 2021, Romanian Silviu Negru received a job invitation from Great Wall Motor Mind Electric and Electronic System (Mind) and arrived in China in July of the same year. Whilst being excited to work in the country, he also had bouts of anxiety about how he would adapt to the different lifestyle. Two years later, the Mind chief engineer has settled in well in Baoding, the city where he works and lives in central Hebei province, and has no regrets about his decision.

**Joining Mind**

Negru got to know about Great Wall Motors in 2016. Mind, as a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Wall Motor, was established in 1998 with the aim of providing customers with fashionable, smart, green and safe automotive component systems. "I have been looking forward to joining this company ever since," he said. In fact, one of the major reasons for him to come to China was his belief in China's great potential in terms of the automobile industry. "This is a great opportunity for me because it allows me not only to experience life in China, but also to understand the Chinese culture. I also saw [a lot of potential in] the company's prospects and its determination to develop," he said.

Before joining Mind, Negru had accumulated 15 years of professional experience,

mainly as a wire harness design engineer, in different countries such as Romania, Germany, France and Hungary, through which he developed an open and inclusive mind to different cultures. With a continuous history of 5000 years, China was always destined to offer him a unique and life-enriching experience.

**Making every day count in China**

According to Negru, only about 20 skilled workers are needed in a 5,000-square-foot automotive manufacturing workshop at Mind, with robots doing most of the work. He is the person who works "behind the scenes" of

these robots, mainly designing wiring harnesses.

He explained that wiring harnesses is the process of combining electrical cables or assembly of wires that connect all the electrical and electronic (E/E) components in the vehicle, such as sensors, electronic control units, batteries and actuators.

The wire harness manages the flow of energy and information within the E/E system to perform primary vehicle functions such as steering and braking, as well as secondary vehicle functions such as ventilation and infotainment.

Wire harnesses can be used not only in automobiles, but also in home appliances, computers and communication equipment.

Talking about his work at the company, he said, "I really like it here. The company's cultural promotion activities are very engaging. During the Chinese festivals, various events were launched, which helped me to gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and to fall in love with the country."

Negru is also a person who loves to explore and enjoy life after work. He knows some of the best local restaurants in Baoding and often takes advantage of his vacations to travel around China, trying local delicacies and taking pictures of the sites. Talking about his impressions of China, he said researching the country beforehand helped him, but it is never the same as experiencing the real thing. "After visiting many places in China, I would say that I really like the friendliness of Chinese people, the taste of Chinese cuisine and the richness of Chinese culture," he said.

"Every day is a new experience here. I am looking forward to growing with my company. I'm also keen to travel to more places, discover more beauty in this country, and explore the vast and profound culture of China," said Negru.

*This article is in cooperation with International Talent Magazine.*

# Better World Needs 'Global Brain': Cuban Scientist

By HE Liang & LONG Yun

Cuban scientist Pedro A. Valdes-Sosa, currently a full-time professor at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan province, hit the headlines recently when he wrote a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping, talking about his team's brain research work and Cuba-China cooperation in science, and Xi replied to his letter.

"I sincerely hope that cooperation between China and Cuba in various fields, including science and technology, will continue to deepen in the new era for the greater benefit of the peoples of both countries," Xi said in his reply, according to Xinhua.

In a recent interview, Valdes-Sosa described his joy on receiving Xi's response as well as a feeling of intense responsibility.

He called his collaboration with UESTC a vivid example of how international partnerships can advance scientific research. He described the collaboration as going beyond publishing research papers. He said it was about developing technologies that can benefit millions of people worldwide.

UESTC is proposing to establish a Belt and Road joint laboratory that will accelerate the detection and prevention of brain diseases and serve people not only in both countries but globally.

He said unlike some Western countries that are making empty promises, China is advancing science and technology

for the benefit of all with its economic strength and commitment to science.

Valdes-Sosa was invited to the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange in Chongqing where the International Science and Technology Cooperation Initiative was launched.

According to him, science should not be a self-serving endeavor driven solely by personal rewards or national interests. Instead, "we have to make science reach the whole population."

He encourages scientists to think about how their research can lead to increased prosperity, industrial development and improved public health on a global scale.

The "global brain," a collaborative initiative with one of his colleagues in Canada, promotes a more inclusive and cooperative approach to science. It seeks to break the traditional model where scientific research often benefits only a small percentage of people in wealthy countries.

"Fields like medical science should extend beyond major hospitals and focus on preventive medicine at all levels of healthcare," he said, adding that this goal is best realized in socialist countries, where governments prioritize the welfare of their people over the interests of a few.

Valdes-Sosa lauded China for counteracting the historical models of science driven by exploitation and conflict. He sees China's commitment to international collaboration and the Belt and Road Initiative as a pathway to "a better world."



Professor Pedro A. Valdes-Sosa. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

## My China Story

# Coming to China, Looking for Unique Opportunities

By LONG Yun & GONG Qian

Three years ago, Mr. Matthias Sendzik, a German engineer, embarked on a remarkable journey when he decided to seize what he described as "a unique opportunity" in China and to live and work there.

The story began like this: when he received a job offer from Volkswagen Anhui, one of Sino-German joint ventures in Anhui province, he made his decision to say yes "just within hours" with the support of his family. "People get such an opportunity only once in their lifetime," he remarked.

**Keywords to describe China**

"The keywords for me to conclude the impressions of China are development, clean air and friendship," he said in a recent interview with *Science and Technology Daily (S&T Daily)*.

He highlighted the readiness of people to offer assistance in daily situations, making him and his family feel at home.

His two sons are studying in Nanjing, an eastern city in China renowned

for its history, culture and progress in science and technology. Sendzik said they have embraced their new lives in China enthusiastically: "They are really happy about [coming to China]. Now they enjoy their life in Nanjing at the university."

Sendzik's experience of working with Chinese colleagues has been one of seamless integration. He leads a team of over 30 Chinese staff and said he is very happy with them. He emphasized their strong work ethics and experience in the automotive development sector and admired their commitment to their work: "I've never seen such hardworking people who put their heart and soul into their jobs."

Sendzik also holds Chinese innovation capability in high regard: "People can develop something completely new with these people in China, whether it's a technique, a product, a way of thinking or a collaboration model."

Safety is a paramount concern for Sendzik and his family. In China, this demand was fully met. He shared that they

feel secure in China at all times, emphasizing the presence of helpful individuals who go out of their way to assist.

**The fruits of Chinese modernization**

China has proved itself to be one of the most dynamic and creative countries in the world, and its rapid rise in recent years has captured the world's attention.

"In many developments, China's ideas and innovations have prevailed," Sendzik said. He finds Chinese modernization driven by technological progress, political support and market demand.

Anhui is a prime example of how Chinese modernization is benefiting the nation. Sendzik highlighted the development of the automotive industry in Anhui and the emergence of new companies, thanks to the government's efforts to attract businesses to the province. Anhui, he said, has successfully transformed itself into a hub of automotive development and innovation.

Sendzik called Chinese modernization, which aims to improve people's quality of life, going in the right way. He

applauded the punctuality and speed of China's high-speed trains and the versatile mobile payment platforms that facilitate daily activities, from public transportation payments to shopping.

"I even saw the Alipay used in my hometown," Sendzik said, noting that Alipay's influence is expanding worldwide and is transforming the payment landscape.

He is also impressed by the availability of shared bicycles and electric motorcycles in China. According to him, in Germany, regulations limit the use of shared electric vehicles, but in China, they have become a common and efficient mode of transportation, promoting a sense of freedom and environmental consciousness.

"In the future, the Chinese path to modernization will continue to reach 'Chinese speed' in a number of areas," he said.

*This article is also contributed by Anhui News English, Anhui New Media Group.*

# Copper Bird: The Oldest Weather Vane

## Traditional Eastern Wisdom

By ZONG Shihan

The world's earliest wind direction instrument, the copper bird, was invented by Zhang Heng (78-139), a renowned scientist in the Eastern Han Dynasty. It resembles a bird made of copper with a short head and a long tail, placed on a straight pole about 16 centimeters high. When the wind blows, the direction pointed by the bird's head is that of the wind.

The design of the copper bird follows the principles of aerodynamics. When the wind blows on the copper bird, it exerts pressure on both the head and tail of the bird. Because the head area is small, the wind pressure is small, while the opposite is true of the tail. As a result, the bird will rotate under the wind torque at the tail. While the bird's head is pointing towards the wind, the force on both sides of the tail is balanced, keeping the bird stable in one position.

An example of the copper bird can be seen on top of the tower in Yuanjue Temple in Shanxi province, which continues to operate efficiently today after 800 years. The bird has three structural features. Firstly, it has a hollow structure, which avoids water accumulation while reducing weight. Secondly, the sur-

face of the copper has been treated so that it has not oxidized for 800 years. Thirdly, the bird stands on an octagonal tower, with each side representing a direction. People can quickly judge the direction indicated by the bird's head to understand the wind direction.

The weathercock invented in Europe in the 12th century is similar in principle to the copper bird, but replaces the shape of bird with a rooster. The rooster has a pointed beak, a small head and a large tail. When the wind blows, the direction indicated by its beak is that of the wind.



The copper bird on top of the tower in Yuanjue Temple in Shanxi province. (PHOTO: VCG)

# Language Creates Cultural Bridge

By LONG Yun & BI Weizi

Thirteen years ago, an American teacher and music enthusiast, Parker Trevathan, embarked on an extraordinary journey in China.

**Following his heart**

Trevathan became deeply immersed in Beijing's vibrant music scene while pursuing a career in education after first arriving in China. "I never planned to focus solely on music as a profession. It's more something I truly love to do," he told *S&T Daily*.

Over the years in Beijing, he grew to enjoy teaching, especially working in a university environment.

Currently, Trevathan is an English lecturer at Tianjin University (TJU). He

explained that the decision to move to Tianjin was a natural one, driven by personal connections. He recalled, "As my fiancée was living in Tianjin and I had made many trips here over the years and grown to like it, it seemed like a perfect choice to move here."

Reflecting on his years in China, Trevathan acknowledges the remarkable changes he's witnessed. "It is hard to pinpoint exactly [the most important changes], but there have, of course, been a multitude of them. A specific change is the improvement in air quality," he said.

Trevathan also noticed the profound impact of science and technology on China's development. "It has undoubtedly affected everyone's life in China, in-

cluding how we travel, work, make purchases, and engage with various institutions," he said. In addition, he highlighted China's status as the most significant contributor to top scientific journals, emphasizing the nation's focus on training young scientists for global engagement.

**Using language as a bridge**

As a believer in the power of language to be a cultural bridge, and having been involved in teaching English for many years, Trevathan emphasized its pivotal role in "sharing culture."

"It is a massive benefit for my students to improve their English skills to better interact with the international scientific community, thereby promoting exchanges, collaboration, and development," he said.