

专访:德国科隆市长罗特斯谈“中国之行”

新华网德国科隆11月11日专电(记者焦宇 班玮)专访:亲历华美世博 感受真实中国——德国科隆市长罗特斯谈“中国之行”

德国科隆市长于尔根·罗特斯虽然已从上海回来1个多月,但浑身上下仍散发着“中国气息”:用汉语打招呼,掏出中文名片,还有一枚刻着自己中文名字的印章。

今年9月,就任1年有余的罗特斯率领庞大的经济和文化代表团参加上海世博会活动,并访问了科隆的友好城市——中国首都北京。在中国,他挤地铁,与“的哥”闲聊,在黄浦江边上10公里长跑……如此“中国之行”,似乎和许多城市的市长大不相同。

回忆起上海世博会,现年61岁的罗特斯依然激动不已:“上海世博会取得令人难以置信的成功,规模空前庞大,各个展馆也有着多种多样的风格,在我眼中,这是一届名副其实的世博会。友好的氛围、热情的人们也给我留下深刻印象。”

世博会期间,罗特斯率领科隆“胡纳”乐队、狂欢节社团“红色火花”和科隆歌剧团的艺术家们为中国观众奉献了一场场文化盛宴。“红色火花”和“胡纳”乐队的现场演奏吸引了大批观众,而科隆歌剧团则首次将瓦格纳的经典剧目《尼伯龙根的指环》搬上上海大剧院的舞台。

即便对不少德国人来说,瓦格纳的歌剧也显得不易消化,但科隆歌剧团在上海的8场演出却场场爆满。罗特斯说,这反映出中国民众对他国文化保持着强烈的好奇心和求知欲,中德之间的文化交流大有发展空间。

罗特斯说,除了一届精妙绝伦的世博会,这次访问还打破了他许多关于中国的先入为主的印象。他认为,只有亲身体验才能真正认识一个国家,也正因如此,他决心大力推进科隆各界与中国的交流,让更多德国人了解中国这个遥远的国度。

访问上海期间,这位科隆市长还进行过一次“微服私访”。在翻译陪同下,罗特斯脱下西装,一身便装周游于上海的大街和里弄,和市民一起挤地铁,和出租车司机讨论上海的交通状况。作为一名马拉松爱好者,他还在黄浦江边来了个10公里长跑,“看到很多市民一大早就在江边晨练”。

就这样,罗特斯对中国的认识一点点鲜活起来。“在去中国之前,我读到、或者听到过许多关于中国的东西,头脑里已有了一

幅中国图景，但这些都和真实的情况加以比较，”他说，“中国之行给我留下非常积极的印象，中国人民乐观向上，开放好客，对新鲜事物充满好奇心。”

伴随中国快速发展，西方出现一些“不安”的声音。作为德国一座重要都市的市长，罗特斯又如何看待这一问题？他说，科隆5年前就策划实施了“中国攻势”项目，旨在吸引中国企业到科隆投资。这个项目表明，中国绝非威胁，人们不必心存恐惧，恰恰相反，德中双方都能从经济交往中获益。

截至目前，科隆市已吸引200余家中国企业落户，其中不乏三一重工这类重量级投资者。罗特斯说，将中国企业“引进来”，为德国企业提供了向中国同行学习的机会，比如中国企业迅速将项目付诸实施的能力，而在德国，由于决策过程复杂，落实一个项目往往需要很长时间。

罗特斯告诉记者，科隆与北京将借助2012年两市缔结为友好城市25周年的契机，举行盛大庆祝活动并拓展新的合作领域，会展业是其中之一。

世博会期间，德国馆以精妙的创意和前卫的设计吸引大批民众参观，是园区内人气最高的展馆之一。而这一项目的执行方便是科隆展览国际有限公司。罗特斯说，明年，这家公司将首次举办以大都市生态环境保护为主题的展会，届时将邀请北京和其他省市的中国企业参展，共同探讨都市可持续发展话题。

罗特斯说，随着科隆与中国的交流日益紧密，科隆市政府也形成了一个“中国事务团队”。科隆市政府中国顾问孟宙和科隆市经济促进局副局长约瑟波维奇多年来一直从事对华合作项目，罗特斯对他们赞赏有加。

在德国生活多年的孟宙深谙中德两国文化差异，她认为增进沟通，帮助彼此建立正确的认知十分重要，“不同文化间的交往就和朋友间的交往一样，需要用心培养”。约瑟波维奇对此深有体会，他告诉记者，不少德国人对中国的看法趋于简单化和程式化，不过到现在为止，他还没遇到一个到了中国之后而没对中国的印象有所改观的德国人。

孟宙总结说：“市长访华之前就有媒体申请采访，但那时他对中国还没有直观的了解，采访很快就结束了。可是今天，你们的采访在毫不经意间已经超出了预约时间。”

(转载) 2010年11月12日 15:26:59 来源: 新华网

Discovering the real China -- a German mayor's eye-opening experience

English.news.cn 2010-11-12 14:01:07

by Xinhua Writer Ban Wei, Jiao Yu

COLOGNE, Germany, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) -- His former careers, which included a stint as Cologne police chief, hardly had anything to do with China. One year into his term as mayor of Cologne, Germany's fourth largest city, Juergen Roters finds it worthwhile to expand his knowledge about China because of growing links between his city and China.

The 2010 Shanghai World Expo was an opportunity for him to travel to the other end of the Eurasian continent in September.

An enthusiastic marathon runner, he got up early on a drizzly morning in Shanghai to jog 10 km along the Huangpu River.

"A truly refreshing run," he told Xinhua in a recent interview. One thing that he noticed was that many Shanghaiers, especially women, were doing morning exercise despite the cold and rain.

He made use of every opportunity to get a glimpse into the daily life of Shanghaiers by taking the crowded subway, chatting with a taxi driver and touring a traditional Shanghai neighborhood.

On one occasion, he even convinced a reluctant local policeman into having his picture taken with him by arguing that he was once a policeman himself.

The Shanghai Expo provided an excellent platform for the mayor to present his city, and he wowed Expo visitors

with shows featuring the Rote Funken, the oldest and largest carnival society in Cologne, and the band Hoehner, which is famous for its carnival song Viva Colonia.

To his surprise, the Cologne Opera's eight performances of Richard Wagner's "The Ring of the Nibelung" in the Shanghai Grand Theater, dubbed by the German press as "Wagner goes Shanghai," had all been fully booked and warmly cheered.

The success in Shanghai of Wagner's operas, "a hard diet even for many Germans" as the mayor put it, "is a clear manifestation of Chinese audiences' curiosity and desire to learn about other cultures."

As to the Expo as a whole, Roters found it "incredibly overwhelming" not only because of its grand scale, but also because of the way the national pavilions presented themselves.

"For me it was a world exhibition in the truest sense of the word," he said, adding that he was also deeply impressed by the friendly atmosphere, cheerfulness and cosmopolitan attitude he witnessed both on and outside the Expo ground.

Compared with the China he had imagined before the trip, the mayor said he was "very positively surprised" when confronted with the real China.

"The optimism of the Chinese, their cosmopolitan attitudes and curiosity have made it clear that China wants to show the world what it can do but at the same time wants to know more about the world," Roters said.

Touching on Western anxiety about China's rapid growth, Roters said the "China Offensive" project launched in Cologne in 2005 to attract Chinese investment has demonstrated that contact with China does not mean a threat and there is no need for fear. "Quite the contrary, it shows that both sides can benefit from these economic contacts," he said.

There are over 200 Chinese companies in Cologne, including the Sany Group, a major Chinese heavy construction equipment manufacturer, the mayor said.

"Chinese entrepreneurs appreciate the 'made in Germany' quality, while for Germans, the entrepreneurial dynamics, the economic boom and the ability to quickly implement large projects in China, though these may come as a great challenge for us, also deserve great recognition here," he said.

Roters' tour of China also took him to Beijing, where he met his counterpart Guo Jinlong. "It's an honor for Cologne to have a partnership with such a big city like Beijing over so many years, which has strengthened the trust between the citizens as well as politicians," Roters said.

During his talks with Guo, both sides agreed to organize celebrations in 2012 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Cologne-Beijing partnership and to seek more cultural exchanges as well as cooperation in urban environmental protection.

Asked what he would like to do if he was Beijing mayor, Roters said he would encourage more people to ride bicycles and make greater efforts to preserve traditional Beijing neighborhoods while going ahead with new urban development projects.

When interacting with China, Roters has a team of qualified and devoted aides, such as Zhou Meng, a Chinese German, who has been the Cologne government's counsel on China-related issues for many years, and Michael Josipovic, deputy director of the Cologne Office for Economic Development.

For Meng, fostering intercultural links between Germans and Chinese is a mission that demands enthusiasm and personal endeavor.

For Josipovic, who also has many years of experience in promoting business cooperation between Cologne and Chinese

cities, ordinary German people's impression of China is "too simplified and stereotyped, a far cry from the multifaceted and vivid reality in China."

"The best way to improve the China image here should be to encourage more people to visit your country," he told Xinhua. "I've never met anyone who has not changed his view about China after seeing the country with his own eyes."