

沃尔夫奖得主杰尔：我有一位中国笔友！

杰尔是中科院外籍院士，专程来京参加2007诺奖论坛

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[科学网 何姣报道]“你们知道吗？我有一位中国笔友！”理查德·杰尔向记者“透露”。

2005年沃尔夫化学奖得主、美国科学院院士理查德·杰尔教授正在北京参加2007年诺贝尔奖获得者北京论坛。其实这远不是杰尔教授的第一次中国之行。他的第一次中国之旅发生在整整二十年前的1987年，之后他还不停地回到他热爱的这个国家，对多所中国的研究所和大学进行学术交流和访问。

谈到这位湖南长沙籍的女笔友，杰尔津津乐道：“我是在一次访问湖南的时候，在一次茶艺表演上认识她的。后来我们一直通过电子邮件交流。遗憾的是，我们只能用英语，我的中文太糟糕了。前几天她还写信给我，说她正在伦敦呢。”

杰尔的中文虽然很“糟糕”，但是他递给记者的名片却一面印着中文。“这是为中国朋友们专门加印的。我的中文虽然不好，但是我弟弟说得一口流利的中文！”

在记者的刨根问底之下，杰尔终于抖出了他的“家庭秘密”：他弟弟娶了一位华裔夫人，他们是在夏威夷认识的，但是这位夫人并非来自中国，而是来自加勒比海地区的牙买加！包袱抖完了，杰尔总结道：“你们看，有太阳的地方就有中国人！”

说起他与中国的渊源，杰尔教授说：“我热爱这个国家。中国是一个伟大的国家，未来还会变得更加伟大。”“我鼓励我的中国学生回国服务，因为这里孕育着巨大的机会。”的确，杰尔教授已经培养了十几名中国籍的博士毕业生，还不包括数量众多的中国博士后。在他们完成学业或培训后，杰尔教授都力劝他们回国。为了帮助中国在他所在的领域更快地发展，他热心帮助出口高端设备到中国，在美国海关刁难的时候，亲自协调申诉，争取放行。

杰尔教授坦言：“中国发生的变化实在是太大了，每次来我都能看到翻天覆地的变化！美国的速度已经是很快了，但是我现在看到的中国速度比美国当年还要快！”

中国人民感谢杰尔的热情和友谊，2002年，湖南大学授予杰尔名誉博士学位，2004年杰尔当选中国科学院外籍院士。今年的9月12日清华大学将授予杰尔名誉教授职位。

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WOLF PRIZE LAUREATE ZARE: I HAVE A CHINESE PEN PAL!

Zare is a foreign member of CAS, Participating the Nobel Laureate Beijing Forum 2007

[SCIENCENET Reported by Jiao He] “Do you know that I have a Chinese pen pal?” Richard Zare “revealed” to me.

Professor Richard Zare, the 2005 Wolf Prize Laureate in Chemistry and a member of National Academy of Science in USA, is attending the Nobel Laureate Beijing Forum 2007. Actually it is far from being his first visit to China. His first trip took place two decades ago in 1987, and then he kept coming back to this country he loves to visit and make communications with a number of institutes and universities.

Zare is very happy talking about this pen pal in Changsha, Hunan: “I met her in a tea ceremony when I visited Hunan. Then we kept our communication by email afterwards. Unfortunately, we have to use English because my Chinese is too poor. She wrote to me a few days ago that she was in London now.”

Although Zare’s Chinese is “poor”, the business card he passed to me is printed in Chinese at one side. “This is specially printed for Chinese friends. Though my Chinese is not good, my brother speaks Chinese fluently!”

Zare eventually revealed his “family secret”: his brother married a Chinese lady. They met in Hawaii, and the lady came from Jamaica of Caribbean not China! After telling me the secret, Zare concluded, “See, there are Chinese wherever there is the Sun!”

Speaking of his long-term relationship with China, Professor Zare said, “I love this country. China is a great country and will be greater in the future.” “I encourage my Chinese students to come back to China, because great opportunities are flourishing here.” In fact, Professor Zare has supervised more than ten Chinese doctoral students, not including numerous Chinese postdoctoral fellows. After they finished their degree or training, Professor Zare always encourages them to return to China to work. In order to accelerate the development of China in the field of his expertise, he actively helped export advanced equipment to China. When the US custom held the cases, he himself coordinated and appealed for release.

Professor Zare said it straightforward, “China is changing very fast. Each time I came I can see dramatic changes! The development in the US is already fast, but I see that in China is even faster than that ever happened in the US.”

Chinese people appreciate Zare’s enthusiasm and friendship. In 2002, Zare was awarded honorary professor by Hunan University. In 2004, Zare was elected a foreign member of Chinese Academy of Science. On September 12 this year, Tsinghua University will award an honorary professorship to Zare.