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身体力行促节能减排 沃尔夫奖得主步行上班

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【科学网 何姣报道】“请问您上班是骑自行车还是坐公共汽车，还是开混合动力车？”在9月11日举行的2007年诺贝尔奖获得者北京论坛上，科学网记者有机会第一个向2005年沃尔夫化学奖得主理查德·杰尔教授提问。

杰尔教授放声大笑：“我走路上班！”人民大会堂三楼会议室响起雷鸣般的掌声。

在刚刚结束的演讲中，杰尔教授介绍了自己对全球变暖趋势和节能减排的独特见解。他的结论是人类现在已经具备了节能减排所需的科学知识，但是能否将这些科学知识付诸经济生活仍然是一个未知数，需要各国政府携手合作，共同承担责任。

杰尔教授是世界顶尖的分析化学家，现任斯坦福大学化学系系主任，美国科学院院士，英国皇家科学院和中国科学院外籍院士。杰尔教授一生获奖无数，特别是在2005年荣获沃尔夫化学奖。

沃尔夫奖是世界上具有很高学术声望的多学科国际大奖。1976年由以色列议会设立，1978年首次颁奖，其宗旨是促进全世界科学、艺术的发展，造福人类，共设有数学、物理、化学、医学、农业和艺术六大类。华人科学家吴健雄、陈省身、袁隆平都曾经荣获该奖。

在随后的采访中，杰尔教授向记者“承认”：实在需要开车的时候，他和太太苏珊会开他们的混合动力车Prius。所谓混合动力车，是指主要使用充电电池但同时配备油箱的汽车。Prius是日本丰田的一款较成功的混合动力车，在世界上享有盛誉。

的确，杰尔教授对混合动力车给予了厚望，他甚至更进一步设想，在不久的将来，人们在夜晚休息之前像为手机充电一样，只要把插头插到插座上，就能为电动汽车充电。杰尔教授认为，电动汽车可以大大减少城市空气污染，提高城市居民的生活质量。因为发电场可以建在远离城市的地方，而且因为能耗集中，可以更方便地处理温室气体排放，这比处理分散的无数辆汽车的尾气更加简便易行。

在被问及对北京的空气质量的印象时，杰尔教授坦言：“很糟糕。”他一手指着窗外：“你们可以自己看。”当天北京大雾，能见度很低，天是灰蒙蒙的，看不到太阳。但是杰尔教授马上接着说：“尽管现在还很糟糕，但是你们可能不相信，这比我1987年第一次访问中国的时候好多了。那时候城里很多地方还在用煤炉，空气中弥漫着煤炉的味道。”

杰尔教授接着盛赞北京政府节能减排的决心。他说，这次大会就是北京政府出资举办的，这表明中国高级官员已经深刻认识到了环保的重要性。他说，经济快速发展中的国家环境污染比较严重，这并不是中国独有的现象。实际上，英国工业革命时期和美国迅速上升的时期，污染都很严重。那时候人们只关心制造了什么，卖出了什么，很少会考虑对环境的影响。他强调，中国绝对不能走发达国家

家先污染再治理的老路。他说，幸运的是，中国政府已经开始正视这个问题，承认这个问题，这对于中国人民和世界各国都是一件大大的好事。“因为只有先承认问题，才能解决问题。在那些拒绝承认问题的地方，根本谈不上解决问题。”杰尔教授说：“为此，我要感谢北京。”

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DO BEST FOR ENERGY SAVING: THE WOLF PRIZE

LAUREATE WALKS TO WORK

[SCIENCENET Reported by Jiao He] “Do you go to office by bike or bus, or by hybrid car?” the reporter from SCIENCENET was the first to ask Professor Richard Zare, the 2005 Wolf Prize Laureate, during the 2007 Nobel Prize in Beijing on September 11.

Professor Zare laughs: “I walk to my office!” Thunderous applause bursts in the conference room on the 3rd floor of the People’s Great Hall.

In the talk that he just delivered, Professor Zare told his unique point of view on the trend of global warming and energy-saving emission. His conclusion is that human being has already has the knowledge for energy-saving emission, but whether we are able to change this knowledge into economy and life is still unknown, and needs the cooperation of all the nations to share the responsibility.

Prof. Zare is a top analytical chemist in the world, who is currently the Chair of Department of Chemistry at Stanford University, a member of the National Academy of Science of the USA, a member of the UK Royal Society of Science and a foreign member of Chinese Academy of Science. Professor Zare has been awarded numerous honors, including the Wolf Prize in Chemistry in 2005.

The Wolf Prize is one of the most prestigious international awards for multiple scientific fields. It was established by the Israeli Congress in 1976 with the first award given in 1978. Its purpose is to promote the development of science and arts around the globe for the welfare of the human being. It has six categories: mathematics, physics, chemistry, medicine, agriculture and art. Chinese scientists Jianxiong Wu, Xingshen Chen and Longping Yuan also earned this award.

In the following interview, Professor Zare “confessed” to the reporter that he and his wife Susan drive their hybrid car Prius when really needed. The so-called hybrid car means the car is equipped with gas tank and chargeable batteries as well. Prius is a relatively successful and famous worldwide hybrid car produced by Toyota in Japan.

Indeed, Prof. Zare has a high expectation on hybrid cars. He even goes further to envisage that, in near future, people can charge their hybrids by just plugging in before they go to bed, just as they do for mobile phones. Prof. Zare thinks that the hybrid car can greatly reduce the air pollution in cities and improve citizens’ life quality. The reason is that power plants can be built in places far away from cities. Furthermore, because energy consumption is concentrated in certain locations, it is more convenient to deal with the green house gases released. This way of treatment is easier and more practical than dealing with exhaust from each running car.

While being asked for the impression about Beijing’s air quality, Professor Zare said: very bad. He pointed outside of the window: you can see by yourself. It is foggy with very low visibility in air. The sky is grey and dull and the sun is not shown. But he continues immediately: although it is very bad now, you may not believe that it is already much better than 1987 when I first visited China. At that time, family coal stoves were still popular in the city and the air smelled burning coal.

Next, Professor Zare highly praised the determination of Beijing government on energy saving. He said that this conference supported by Beijing government showed that the Chinese senior officials have already deeply realized the importance of protecting the environment. He mentioned that it was not only China but other fast-developing countries also had serious environmental pollutions. In fact, during the industrial revolution in the UK and the fast developing period in the US, the pollutions were also very serious. At that time, people only cared about what products they made and how much they sold, but rarely paid attention to the influence on the environment. He emphasized that China must not follow the same route of developed countries, i.e. causing pollution first and then trying to make up. He said, fortunately, the Chinese government had already been noticing and recognizing this problem, which is a great thing for both the Chinese people and the rest of the world. "Because problems can only be solved after they are recognized. In places where problems are refused to be recognized, there's no way to solve problems." Professor Zare said, "For this, I need to thank Beijing."