

Goodbye 2021, Hello 2022!

Ningbo's Memorable Moments

Editor's Note

2021, a year that has seen many remarkable events come to pass in Ningbo, is drawing to a close. In this week's edition, let us revisit some of the most exciting and memorable moments from this year.

Thank you for being part of our journey in 2021. In the new year, we hope you will continue to join us as we share Ningbo's joys and achievements. See you next year!

Ningbo, CEE Products' Best Portal into the Chinese Market

In June of this year, Strasho Krstevski attended the China-CEEC "Silk Road E-Commerce" Development Summit. As the manager of Ningbo Transcont Import and Export Company, he considers Ningbo a first-choice destination for CEE imports into China.

Krstevski explained that people in Ningbo like wine and are willing to purchase wine. A street promotion of his wine at Laowaitan was met with success; even Italian expats were impressed.

He has already signed up for the 2022 China-CEEC Expo; given 2021's revenues, he has high hopes for expanding business even further in the coming year.

Simona Dimitrova Petrovska also attended the China-CEEC Expo this year. In the national pavilion of North Macedonia, she promoted wines and exquisite handicrafts from her country. "I've helped bring more North Macedonian companies to the Chinese market and gotten to know more Chinese business partners," she said.

In 2022, she will continue to attend the Expo, which she regards as a valuable opportunity during the challenging times of the pandemic. She expects to meet more potential buyers than this year.

To deepen cooperation, Ningbo is actively taking new measures. In addition to consumer goods, more industrial products and tech equipment will be presented at next year's China-CEEC Expo. New models such as live-stream marketing will also be rolled out on a larger scale.

"As the host city of the China-CEEC Expo, Ningbo has provided me a great platform on which to meet Chinese buyers; the municipal government waived our booth fees as a gesture of support. Ningbo will definitely be my top-choice portal for importing CEE goods into the Chinese market because of its preferential policies and efficient government officials," said Simona Dimitrova Petrovska.



The Rise of Ningbo—a Booming Manufacturing Powerhouse

Do you know that one in every eight batteries in the world comes from Ningbo, and one in every three Android phones has an optical lens made in Ningbo?

"It is not a surprise that Ningbo has the largest number of manufacturing champion companies in China," said Erdem Ozturk, a Turkish entrepreneur in Ningbo and one of Ningbo's Overseas Communication Officers.

In Erdem's opinion, Ningbo is the epitome of modern China. "Comparing Ningbo today with what it had been when I first arrived, it is apparent how rapidly the business sector has grown and how significantly job opportunities have increased."

Manufacturing is one of Ningbo's strongest suits. The city is one of the only five Chinese cities with independent planning status and its GDP recently surpassed the 1-trillion-yuan mark. Ningbo's major progress in the last few years is clear for all to see. The "Made in Ningbo" label is now the city's calling card on the world stage.

Ningbo is expanding its global influence at the same time that it is growing its economy. "My goal is to strengthen the partnership between Ningbo and Belt and Road countries, expand Ningbo's international footprint in commerce and culture, and help the city become more globally-



oriented." Currently, Erdem is actively facilitating contact between Ningbo and his hometown, Bursa, Turkey, with the aim of forming sister-city relations between the two. "As part of our 2022 plan, we will organize a virtual conference where the two city's largest manufacturing enterprises could exchange ideas, build partnerships, and learn from each other," Erdem said.

"Entrepreneurs from Ningbo have contributed enormously to China's economic development and made generous donations to Chinese society when called upon." Erdem considers Ningbo to be one of the best places in the world to start a business, due to its friendly business environment, its community of kind and reliable citizens, and its eagerness to share experience and wisdom.

A Sports-Loving City that Won Five Olympic Gold Medals

At this year's Tokyo Olympics, five Ningbo athletes won gold medals.

Arthur, a French expat who lives in Ningbo, is a sports enthusiast. He watched videos of the Ningbo athletes' winning moments, which went viral on social media.

He calls Yang Qian's win "epic", as she won the first gold medal for China at the Olympics. "It was nice to see the celebrations they held in her hometown. She really helped put Ningbo on the map for people around the world!"

As a sports-lover, he appreciates seeing new sports facilities crop up around the city. "Back in my first years in Ningbo, I had to drive a long

way to get to football pitches or gymnasiums, but now they're getting closer to where I live. I also enjoy the frequent athletic competitions and events held around the city. Whether it is football, rugby, or cycling, you can easily find a way to participate and compete."

Arthur has been in Ningbo for over eight years, during which time the local sports community has supplied him with a lot of positivity. "During and after games, you can see players from all over the world helping each other out, respecting each other, and sharing their love for the same sport. I encourage more local people to try out rugby with us!"

In Arthur's view, to further improve Ningbo's athletics environment, there is a need to maintain the new infrastructure more regularly after they are built. He also hopes that more sporting competitions in Ningbo could accept foreign players.

"After so many years of living in Ningbo, I consider Ningbo my second home even though I cannot speak the local dialect yet. I wish Ningbo athletes the best of luck and hope they will put their best foot forward and make our city and China proud," he said.



The Power of Ordinary People in the Fight Against COVID-19

In late 2021, a series of drawings by Chen Ziyin, a student of Ningbo University, went viral on Wechat Moments. Her drawings depict the actions of the University's teachers and students during lockdown and are an expression of her appreciation for their hard work.

Many people left positive comments, including one that said, "Nice pictures and we'll tide over!"

"I want to show my appreciation for the medical staff of Ningbo and people fighting against the pandemic everywhere," said Chen.

In the fight against COVID-19, unity is a power to be reckoned with. During lockdown, Ningbo University faculty member Lin Xiaoli used her e-bike to deliver 1,500 masks and daily necessities to the students, sometimes making multiple trips in the middle of the night; guidance counsellor Tan Xuemin kept order at the PCR test site. Actions such as these on the part of the faculty and staff were greatly reassuring to the students.

As a student of Ningbo University's Faculty of Foreign Languages, Chen wants to share these heartwarming stories from Ningbo with people

around the world. As a member of the Faculty's Foreign Language Publicity Team, she has creatively combined the power of art with her foreign language skills.

When asked about her plans for the upcoming year, Chen mentioned an online seminar that she attended a few days ago on the bilingual white paper *Fighting Covid-19: China in Action*. Inspired by the dialogue, she hopes to use her English language skills to share China's best practices with the international community.

During the interview, Chen brought up the book *Our Story: A Memoir of Life and Love in China*, recommended by her thesis supervisor, Professor Xin Hongjuan. The book records the love story of an ordinary couple and has touched many people. It has been translated into many languages and published abroad.

"I would also like to learn how to tell the story of ordinary people in an engaging way. Gradually, I may go on to tell a captivating story of China to the wider world. In 2022, I hope to use art to let more people understand my city and my country," said Chen.

