

Chinese and Foreign Families in Ningbo Celebrate the 2021 Lantern Festival Together

"This is my first time making Chinese crafts and I am totally attracted." "China has a brilliant history of over 5,000 years, which I will take my time in the future to experience." On the evening of February 25th, 2021, a unique Lantern Festival party kicked off in Juxian Community in Ningbo Hi-Tech Zone, with Chinese and foreign families gathering for the celebration.

As part of the event, a teacher demonstrated to the children the technique of making lanterns. Unskilled at first, both Chinese and foreign children soon managed to make adorable lanterns under the guidance of their teacher and parents. "I have never celebrated the Lantern Festival before. What an intriguing and lovely festival!" said Aileen from Jamaica.

It didn't take long for the children to get to know each other and look forward to learning from each other in the future. "It will be perfect for them to spend some time together as my child is practicing spoken English and the American child happens to be learning Chinese," said Mrs. Li.

It was the first time that Michael Bosley's family from the United States had enjoyed the traditional



Chinese festival. He told reporters that he had two daughters, one of 8 and the other of 6, both bilingual in English and Spanish. He and his wife came to China so their children could have access to the Chinese language and to get close to the charm of traditional Chinese culture. Currently, they are working at Ningbo British International School.

Speaking of his impressions of Ningbo, Mr. Bosley used two words:

big and small. "Ningbo is a big city where you can sense its vigor and prosperity. In the meantime, it features a small township for the warmth and amiability."

Handi (with his Chinese name, Wei Quanhan) from Indonesia already had fun solving lantern riddles and trying calligraphy along with the local residents. He spoke idiomatic Mandarin, making reporters wonder about his real nationality. "It is truly

hard for you to tell if I don't take the initiative to introduce myself. Many people would think I'm Chinese." This is Wei Quanhan's second Lantern Festival in China. The "Ningbo Native", as Wei Quanhan described himself, chose to stay in China after graduating from Ningbo University and is now preparing to start his own business here. "I was born and raised in Indonesia and in the future, I hope to make a success of my career in Ningbo."

Apart from making lanterns and guessing riddles, people at the party also tasted tender, and savory Tangyuan (dumplings made of glutinous rice flour and served in soup), which everyone liked immensely.

"The party was held to provide a platform where community residents and foreign friends can communicate with each other and to create a heartwarming atmosphere. On the other hand, it is hoped that activities such as making lanterns, practicing calligraphy and solving lantern riddles can showcase to foreign friends the atmosphere of a traditional Chinese festival," said Zhou Guoxian, Director of Juxian community.

By Hu Qi

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