

Serbian Restaurant in Ningbo: Showcasing Solidarity between China and CEEC

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China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) have been keeping their business cooperation up in the recent decades. Ningbo ranks first across China for two consecutive years (2020 and 2021) in the assessment scheme of 17 + 1 cooperation. Among its substantial achievements in the trade and cultural exchange are the first Central and Eastern European Countries' Products Fair (CEEC Fair), four consecutive China-CEEC Expos, and the CEE Products Online Fair. Also – in March 2021 – Central and Eastern Europe (Ningbo) Cultural Exchange Center was inaugurated for a stronger partnership with countries of the Belt & Road Initiatives as well as a dynamic, diversified, and sustainable bilateral development.

Zhang Yimai, owner of a Serbian restaurant and director of the cultural exchange center, shared his experiences with Ningbo Evening News in promoting the cooperation between Ningbo and Serbia (Chinese "iron friend" from CEEC).

Upon arriving in Serbia in the early 2000s, Zhang started a wholesale and retail business on daily essentials such as clothing and electrical appliances. At that time China had become one of most important trading partners of Serbia, and Chinese products and culture have been highly embraced among local Serbians. Zhang runs a successful business and his sharp mind embraced opportunities amid the economic and political stability of this CEE country.

The first encounter of Zhang with Ningbo happened in 2015 when he sought business opportunities at the first China-CEEC Expo. Having successfully sold Serbian food as well as alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, Zhang decided to return to China in 2016, promoting mutual exchanges as well as bilateral trade (including importing Serbian specialties such as food and wine).

Now Zhang runs a Serbian restaurant in Ningbo's Sanjiangkou (confluence of Three Rivers—Yuyao River, Fenghua River and Yongjiang River) to serve as a platform for both local citizens and expatriates to engage in sporting, artistic and educational activities. At this restaurant, Serbian-style haggis soup, beef soup, Serbian sa-

sages, and Balkan lamb chops are served within a large stainless-steel pot in the Serbian tradition. Beside Serbian coffee and seafood with Serbian flavor sauces, Rakija, a state-banquet wine from Serbia, is also served here. Fermented from fruits, this wine shares a similar flavor with Chinese Baijiu and is distinguished by its fruity aroma.

Expatriates in Ningbo are among the regulars of Zhang's restaurant, spending weekends and enjoying Serbian delicacies. This also opens up a window for Ningbo Evening News to know more about lives and work of these expatriates. Expatriates from Serbia, Canada, and Greece are working in different sectors such as international trade and education. Bojan Popovic was a basketball player before moving to Ningbo; he currently works as a basketball coach and meanwhile engages in international trade with his friends. "Ningbo is a nice and warm city. The local citizens are friendly. We come to this restaurant often with friends to chat and spend time together." Vladimir Brusic, a Serbian professor who works at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China said.

Apart from running the Serbian restaurant, Zhang is also engaged in promoting cultural exchanges through other ways. He established a football club for both local football fans as well as retired football players and regularly organizes attendance at Ningbo Fubang Stadium. In addition, Zhang initiated a book-donating campaign in Serbia, successfully promoting Yangming Philosophy of the Mind (one major philosophical school of Neo-Confucianism) based on the ideas of the Ningbo-born philosopher Wang Yangming (1472-1529). These activities are quite popular among Ningbo citizens and expatriates and have been recognized by Serbian people. For Zhang, more activities featuring Ningbo and Serbian culture are expected to be organized for young generations and students from Ningbo and Serbia, such as beer festivals, music festivals, movie weeks, culture weeks as well as talk shows.

The year 2022 marks the 10th anniversary for the establishment of the China-CEEC cooperation. Zhang and his cultural exchange center will continue to join this joint enterprise and promote bilateral cooperation in such fields as trade, education, and culture.

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Zhang Yimai, head of the Central and Eastern Europe (Ningbo) Cultural Exchange Center, presents a bottle of Rakija, Serbia's "state banquet wine". (Photo by Yang Hui)

公益信息		
尊敬的用电客户： 根据国网宁波供电公司生产计划检修安排，定于5月23日—5月29日期间进行电力设备检修，现将电力设备检修影响客户区域范围列表公告如下，若遇雨天、雷暴等恶劣天气检修工作取消，工作期间会对正常供电造成影响，请各相关用户谅解并做好生产安排，如有疑问，请咨询电力服务电话：集士港：51092106，鄞江：51092370，石碶：51092742，江北洪塘、庄桥、前江街道 0574-51101993、13566031751，江北慈城 0574-51096168、13566037129，江北城区：0574-51103069 13566031746，杭湾 0574-51105099！（接听时间 8:30-16:30）		
检修日期	时 间	检 修 范 围
5月23日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港大雷村7号公变、大雷村1号公变、大雷村8号公变、雷庄村5号公变
5月23日	8:30-15:00	海曙区集士港宋家漕村1号公变
5月23日	9:30-16:00	海曙区集士港宋家漕村12号公变
5月23日	8:30-16:00	海曙区石碶桥社村8#公变
5月23日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶忠明 5310300536、仁顺 5320184830、横涨友谊桥公变
5月23日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶鸿钢 5310200109、鸿钢 5002276775、古林路灯变 5318071015
5月23日	8:30-16:30	海曙区鄞江王家桥镇政府7号公变
5月24日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港江南村4号公变
5月24日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶桥社村6号公变
5月24日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶西杨村2号公变
5月24日	8:00-17:00	海曙区鄞江百梁桥酒厂1号公变
5月24日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北甬江街道：夏家村部分用户短时停电两次
5月25日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港得利顺专变 5318092415 兴丰专变 5310112240
5月25日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港藕缆桥村1、6、2、9、5、11号公变
5月25日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶上王8号公变
5月25日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶双电源：万隆花苑物业 5320411683
5月25日	8:30-17:00	海曙区鄞江百梁桥9号公变、百梁桥梁桥4号公变
5月25日	8:30-16:30	海曙区鄞江鄞溪6号公变
5月25日	7:30-16:30	宁波江北慈城镇：慈湖一期小区部分用户短时停电两次
5月26日	8:00-16:00	海曙区集士港梅梁桥村13号公变，派菲特 5320032549，桃源村1号公变，梅梁桥村2号公变，华业 5310320790，梅梁桥村3号公变，芝岭村8号公变，芝岭村4号公变，瑞盈 5320044737，源兴气门 5310200029，芝岭村2号公变
5月26日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港望江村5号公变
5月26日	8:30-16:00	海曙区石碶禾田商业 5310100018、禾田商业 5310101291
5月26日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶联丰6号公变
5月26日	8:30-17:00	海曙区鄞江前王6号公变、前王后周2号公变
5月26日	8:30-16:30	海曙区鄞江光溪老协6号公变
5月26日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北慈城镇：虹桥头部分用户
5月27日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港双银村3号公变
5月27日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港万华村1号公变、万华村4号公变
5月27日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港横港村3号10号11号12号13号望春新农村建设专变 5002264216
5月27日	8:30-16:00	海曙区石碶冯家村2号公、冯家小戴家公
5月27日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶横涨3号公变
5月27日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶西杨村1号公变
5月27日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶慈惠新村6号公变
5月27日	7:30-17:00	虹桥村13号公变、虹桥村10号公变、华兴村1号公变、华兴村11号公变
增加检修日期	时 间	增加检修范围
5月19日	7:30-16:30	海曙区鄞江树桥7号公变
取消检修日期	时 间	取消检修范围
5月17日	8:30-16:30	海曙区鄞江树桥1号公变、树桥9号公变
5月18日	8:30-16:30	海曙区鄞江三李7号公变