



**Hendrik  
Maarten  
Dijkerman**

## Dutch equestrian master gallops for Shanghai

### Yang Yang

HENDRIK Maarten Dijkerman, 66, a professional rider and coach from the Netherlands, comes from a three-generation equestrian family.

He first came to China in 2012 and found that the country was just getting started with the horse business. He stayed a bit longer in Shanghai to help the city develop the sport, teaching people how to take care of horses, feed them, make shoes for them as well as riding skills and all things relating to horsemanship.

In 2014, the Longines Global Champions Tour came to Shanghai for the first time with its glamorous competition, galloping horses and riders tall on the saddle. The event marked a tremendous step forward for the city's strength in holding international sports competitions.

Dijkerman broke his personal record

for a jump over a hurdle height of 1.9 meters at the China Tour following the 2015 Shanghai Longines Global Champions Tour on Fritz, a German horse he had tamed and trained.

Dijkerman loves a horse for its intelligence and sensitivity.

"They have their own mind. I think, 'go left,' and the horse has already turned (left)," the Dutch said.

Dijkerman is not just a skilled rider and a patient coach, but also a spiritual horse tamer.

"Every time you bring some new people up to the level, you feel nice. That's also what has kept me going through all these years.

"The same applies for horses. I start with 4- or 5-year-old horses. I train them, level them up until 13 or 14 ... and I start with young horses all over again. That's what keeps me going," he noted.

## Danish businessman approves of city's business environment



**Simon Lichtenberg**

### Yang Jian

SIMON Lichtenberg is founder and CEO of Trayton Group, a leading Nordic furniture manufacturer based in Shanghai's Minhang District.

Over the last three decades, the Dane, who first came to Shanghai way back in 1987, has witnessed the city's rapid economic development and the improvement in its business environment.

The winner of the city's Magnolia Gold Award, given to foreigners for their local contribution, in 2019, Lichtenberg began his China journey as a student of Chinese at Fudan University.

Back then in the late 1980s, he experienced a planned economy, cramped buses and streets as well as the deserted Lujiazui area, which was just some acres of paddy field.

Then in 1993, he set up a trading company for products imported from Denmark in a hotel room in Hongqiao, which was among the first batch of foreign enterprises in Shanghai.

Lichtenberg's firm is now a world-famous furniture brand with over 2,000 employees. More than 1,000 containers of furniture designed and manufactured by his company in Shanghai and neighboring Zhejiang Province are exported across the world every month.

Praising Shanghai, he points out that the attitude of the government has become more open, friendly and service-minded. "This has always been helpful during every stage of my entrepreneurship in the city."



**Improving the business environment is an ongoing process, and there is always room for things to get better.**

— Xi Jinping

## Canadian researcher hails Shanghai as a paradise for scientific research

### Li Qian

JEREMY Murray doesn't speak Chinese, but that didn't stop him from settling down in China. It was a risky maneuver, but he pulled it off.

"Not a word of Chinese. But I function well here in Shanghai," said the 51-year-old Canadian scientist.

Like the majority of Chinese people, he is heavily reliant on WeChat, China's most popular messaging app, with approximately 1.3 billion monthly active users.

"I can't live without WeChat," he said. As the lingering

pandemic disrupted his travel plans, he created a long list of WeChat groups to assign homework, hold scholarly debates, and communicate with his overseas friends and family members, particularly his elderly mother.

Murray began in Canada before moving to the United States. He then moved to the United Kingdom to work at the John Innes Centre, a world-renowned plant and microbial science research institute. He made the decision to pursue his research in Shanghai about

five years ago.

Shanghai, in his opinion, is a kind of paradise for scientific research.

"I don't think you can get better," he said, giving an "A" for the city's scientific research environment. "We've got fantastic facilities here. We've also got a great team of scientists. There are a lot of people doing cutting-edge research here. So you can sit down at the canteen and discuss science with some of the leading researchers in the world."

Murray admits that his

success would not have been possible without the support of his employer and the Shanghai government.

"I feel very supported," he said. "Like I've got supplements to help my rental here, which is a big issue in Shanghai for scientists."

"I have to say in terms of being able to obtain funding, the personnel, the people, it's been easier here," he said. "We have a clear advantage here where we can build a bigger team faster and with enough research funding to take on ideas that come to me."



**Jeremy Murray**