

Indonesia-born paper tycoon praises city, thrives in China



Honorary citizen of Shanghai

Tjie Goan Oei

Chairman and president
of Sinar Mas Group

Yang Meiping

AS chairman and president of Sinar Mas Group, Indonesia-born Singaporean Tjie Goan Oei, a new honorary citizen of Shanghai, has worked in the city for 23 years, with APP (Asia Pulp & Paper) one of its core sectors and a trade name for pulp and paper manufacturing companies mainly in Indonesia and China.

The eldest son of Sinar Mas Group founder Eka Tjipta Widjaja, Oei was born in Indonesia in 1944. He came to China in 1960 and studied computational mathematics in Peking University.

In 1991, Oei took over the business from his father and set sights on the Chinese market. Under his leadership, APP China set up its headquarters in Shanghai in 1998.

"My ancestors are from Quanzhou, Fujian Province. Though I was born in Indonesia, my study experiences in China made me realize my emotional attachment to my home country," Oei told Shanghai Daily. "China is a developing country. Overseas Chinese entrepreneurs like me always bear in mind the responsibility to make contributions to our home country."

Oei pointed out that he chose Shanghai as the location for the company's headquarters because he values the city's opening-up spirit and its rapid economic growth since the 1990s.

APP China has invested and constructed a batch of paper-making bases in the Yangtze River Delta region. Its Gold East facility in Jiangsu Province is the single largest coated paper mill in the world, while APP Ningbo in Zhejiang Province is one of the world's biggest producers of white boards, which can be used in different product packaging, such as food, drugs and cosmetics.

"For the paper-making industry, I have my own feelings," said Oei.

"Paper-making is one of the four great inventions of China and the pride of our nation. It's our responsibility and mission to carry forward this ancient civilization and bring the sustainable development concept as well as advanced paper-making technology to China."

In a bid for sustainable development, APP has planted more than 270,000 hectares of forest in Guangdong, Hainan and Yunnan provinces as well as the Guangxi

Zhuang Autonomous Region.

APP China has also developed a handful of urban complex projects in Shanghai, including the Sinar Mas Plaza and the Landmark Center in Hongkou District, the Arch Shanghai in Changning District, and the Bund Center in Huangpu District.

Apart from the commercial projects, Oei and his company are also involved in social and charity activities.

Oei has set up a few educational foundations for Peking University since 1993, and was therefore named the university's honorary alumni in 2007.

APP China donated 15 million yuan (US\$2.15 million) to support the construction of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai's China Pavilion. When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020, the company donated 100 million yuan as well as goods worth of 350,000 yuan.

Through the Shanghai Overseas Chinese Foundation, the firm donated 10 million yuan to Henan Province for flood relief last year, and another 10 million yuan for Shanghai's fight against the resurgence of the pandemic early this year.



Xiaoping Shen
United States

Director, Professor &
Vice President, Shanghai
Sipo Polytechnic

Xiaoping Shen, 71, was born in Shanghai and went to the US for studies in the 1980s. He came back to join Shanghai Sipo Polytechnic and founded its nursing school, the first such private school in Shanghai, in 2003 and has developed an educational system in line with international standards.

He won the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award in 2008.



Daquan Xu
United States

Executive Vice
President, Bosch
(China) Investment, Ltd.

Daquan Xu, 59, has been working in Shanghai for 17 years and won the Magnolia Silver Award in 2017.

Xu has been leading Bosch China in applying AI in manufacturing to improve efficiency and save costs. Its team has helped improve the accuracy of nucleic acid tests. Bosch China is also supporting China's efforts in reaching carbon emission peak in 2030 and carbon neutrality in 2060.



Huaqiang Xu
United States

Director & Professor,
Center for Structure and Function
of Drug Targets, Shanghai Institute
of Materia Medica, Chinese
Academy of Sciences

Huaqiang Xu, 58, is an outstanding scientist in the research of protein science and has been working in Shanghai for eight years. Besides the 2020 Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award, last year he won the Tan Jiazhen Life Science Award and this year the Wu Jieping-Paul Janssen Medical & Pharmaceutical Award.

His team holds more than 10 patents at home and abroad.



Liming Gu
Canada

President, Perfect
World Zhengqi
(Shanghai) Multimedia
Technology Co., Ltd

Liming Gu, 54, won the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award in 2020. He and his company have made great contributions to Shanghai's vision to become a global eSports center.

After reaching a strategic cooperation deal with American video game developer, publisher and digital distribution firm Valve in 2018, Gu led Perfect World Zhengqi to set up its headquarters in Zhangjiang and quickly helped gather clusters of related industrial chains.



Yi Zhang
United States

President of Asia
Pacific & Global Vice
President, DuPont

Yi Zhang, 54, has worked in Shanghai for 11 years and received the Magnolia Silver Award in 2020.

Zhang believes that investing in Shanghai is investing in the future, so DuPont has made a strong investment in the city, with seven exclusively funded ventures and four regional headquarters by the end of last year, and has been honored as top 100 best foreign investors in the city many times.