



The Inno-Match Expo is a highlight of the Pujiang Innovation Forum. — All photos by Jiang Xiaowei



‘China and US share more similarities than differences’

Li Qian

Gene Hartigan knows a thing or two about China-US ties. Over the last two decades, the American has made 31 trips to China and has previously worked with government agencies, shipping businesses, airlines, technological startups and educational institutions, among others.

He is currently the associate chairman of the US-China Cooperation and Development Committee and a director of the Shanghai Zhangjiang Boston Enterprise Park's board.

He has spent decades encouraging cooperation and understanding between the two countries and

shared his thoughts with Shanghai Daily in an exclusive interview at the recent Pujiang Innovation Forum.

China, he said, is a key actor on the global stage and will play a major role in innovation.

But the most important thing for Americans in dealing with businesses is that “they understand China and look at China through Chinese eyes, not American eyes,” he remarked.

He believes China and the United States are a perfect match since the two countries share more similarities than differences, despite having different governments and leaders.

Americans value education just

as China values education. Americans work hard, and China works even harder. Both Chinese and Americans enjoy doing things together. “They’re very communal,” he said.

“All of us have to be on the same plane,” he added. “To make it work and be effective, we must all look at things from the same perspective.”

He admitted that it would take time. “Both countries must recognize that they are not enemies but rather competitive partners.”

When asked what had impressed him during his years in China, he said it was the Chinese people’s perseverance.

“To manage an economy three

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To manage an economy three times the size of America’s, which is still changing, is what most impresses me. Chinese people are so resilient that they’re out there doing what they have to do, making changes.

Gene Hartigan

Associate chairman of the US-China Cooperation and Development Committee