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The most important thing is not which reaction you choose to show, but how you present the material to make it interesting and to impart some knowledge. I want to use the Internet to ignite their interest in chemistry.

**David G. Evans**

skeptical about his decision, questioning what sort of science he could do in China. His mother, then 70, was so worried that she flew to Beijing to inspect his living conditions — and found them acceptable.

“I’d been coming to China since 1987, and I’ve seen all of the changes that have happened in China. It’s a place full of potential,” he said.

But the campus lab couldn’t contain Evans’s dedication to chemistry. He decided to expand his focus, taking science out to the public.

“In this era, we are all bombarded with information,” he said. “How do you actually sort out what is true and what is rumor? Everybody these days needs to think in a scientific way.”

Evans sees his endeavors to popularize science as a supplement to China’s education system, where he finds some students fed up with textbooks and yearning for more practical, hands-on experience.

His efforts have paid off.

“I’ve studied chemistry for three years, but I never even touched a test tube,” one student told him. “I thought chemistry was really boring. But when I see you do these experiments, I suddenly realize that, wow, chemistry is really exciting.”

Just what Dr Dai likes to hear.

“Hopefully, I can give students a chance to actually see the beauty of chemistry, and some of them may actually be inspired to become scientists,” he said.

So far, he has visited more than 300 cities across China, delivering



Young students are astounded by a chemical reaction. — Ti Gong



Evans has nearly 10 million followers on Chinese short-video app Kuaishou.

chemistry lessons in schools, science museums and other venues.

In his most recent trip to Shanghai, he took his portable chemistry lessons to the Hongkou Fire Station, First Central Primary School of Jing’an and Gezhi High School.

But China was so huge that Evans realized he needed to be more creative in reaching out to the public. So in 2018, he started uploading videos on Kuaishou.



Evans with rural children in his earlier days in China. — Ti Gong

So far, account “Dr Dai’s Lab” has posted 534 videos, which have received more than 9.9 million followers and 23 million “likes.”

He especially wants to take his message to rural China, where many young students lack the benefits of big city educations. Videos are his medium of communication.

For his contributions in China, Evans was presented the Friendship Award,

the highest honor in China for foreigners, in 2001, and the China International Science and Technology Cooperation Award, the top scientific award for foreign scientists, in 2005.

“I wish I could have a chemistry teacher like you,” wrote one young admirer in an online posting.

“If we all have such chemistry lessons, we would all be very interested in chemistry,” wrote another.